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# DESCRIPTION OF AND GUIDE TO JASPER PARK

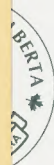




DESCRIPTION OF  
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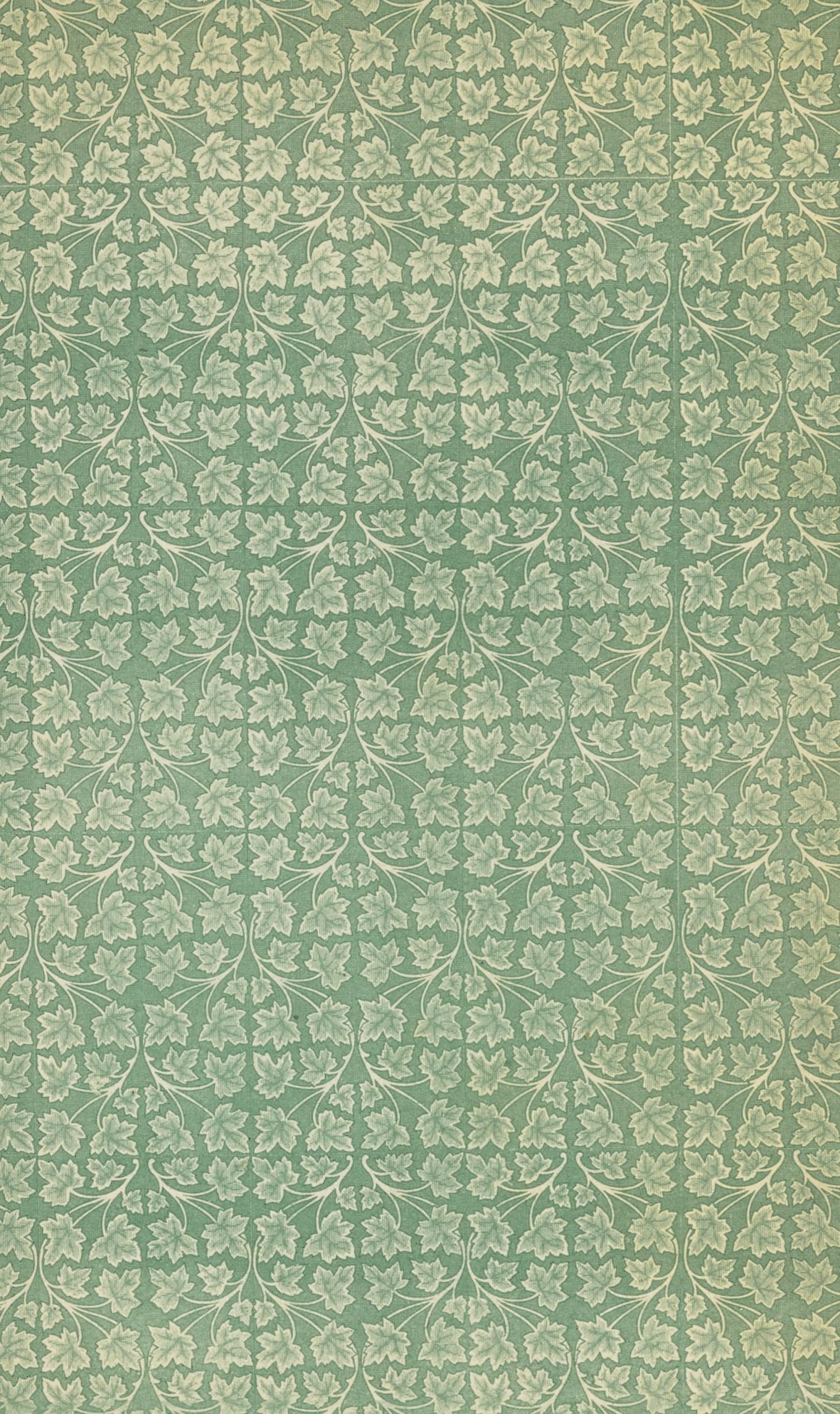
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S. W. Armstrong

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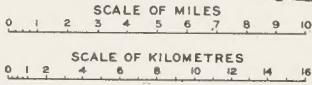
W. P. Bridgland

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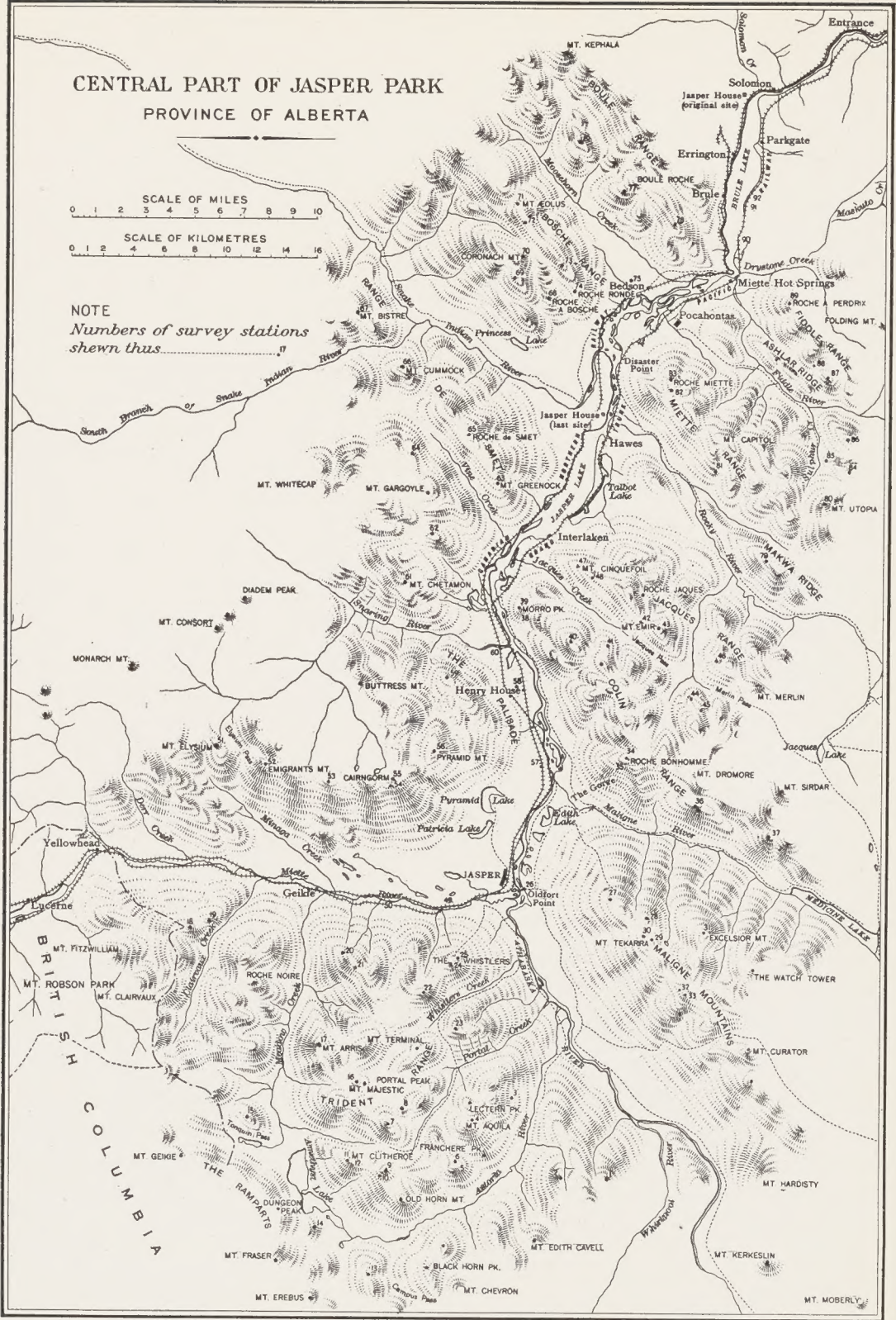
DESCRIPTION of & GUIDE to  
JASPER PARK



CENTRAL PART OF JASPER PARK  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA



NOTE  
Numbers of survey stations  
shewn thus....."





DESCRIPTION *of &* GUIDE *to*  
JASPER PARK



OTTAWA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
1917







## PREFACE

**T**HIS GUIDE is the outcome of a photographic survey of the central part of Jasper park executed in 1915 by M. P. Bridgland, Dominion Land Surveyor. The topographical part of the Guide was written by him and the historical notes by R. Douglas, Secretary of the Geographic Board. The illustrations, which are mostly from the survey photographs, were selected and arranged, and the book edited by E. Deville, Surveyor General.

The numbers between brackets in the legends of the illustrations refer to the camera stations of the survey, marked on the map at the beginning of the Guide.

The map of the Bridgland survey on the 1-62,500 scale, about a mile to an inch, has been published in six sheets 19 x 22 inches, sold at 15 cents per sheet, or mounted and dissected for the pocket at 50 cents per sheet.





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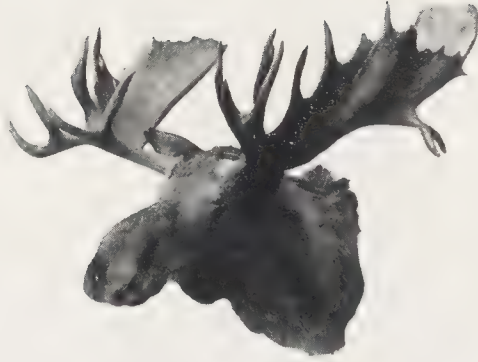
DESCRIPTION *of &* GUIDE *to*  
JASPER PARK

My life is gliding downwards; It speeds swifter to the day  
When it shoots the last dark canon to the Plains of Far-away,  
But while its stream is running through the years that are to be,  
The mighty voice of Canada will ever call to me.  
I shall hear the roar of rivers where the rapids foam and tear,  
I shall smell the virgin upland with its balsam-laden air,  
And shall dream that I am riding down the winding woody vale,  
With the packer and the packhorse on the Athabaska Trail.  
I have passed the warden cities at the Eastern water-gate,  
Where the hero and the martyr laid the corner-stone of State,  
The habitant, coureur-des-bois—and hardy voyageur.  
Where lives a breed more strong at need to venture or endure?  
I have seen the gorge of Erie where the roaring waters run,  
I have crossed the Inland Ocean, lying golden in the sun,  
But the last and best and sweetest is the ride by hill and dale,  
With the packer and the packhorse on the Athabaska Trail.  
I'll dream again of fields of grain that stretch from sky to sky,  
And the little prairie hamlets where the cars go roaring by,  
Wooden hamlets as I saw them—noble cities still to be  
To girdle stately Canada with gems from sea to sea;  
Mother of a mighty manhood, Land of glamour and of hope,  
From the eastward sea-swept Islands to the sunny Western slope,  
Ever more my heart is with you, ever more till life shall fail,  
I'll be out with pack and packer on the Athabaska Trail.

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Jasper park, Alberta, June 18, 1914





Moose Head

## CHAPTER I

### LOCATION AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE PARK

Location of the park . . . David Thompson's discovery of the Athabaska pass . . . John Jacob Astor's ambitious plans . . . Misfortunes of Astoria . . . The Tonquin . . . Gabriel Franchère, Ross Cox and Alexander Ross . . . Jasper House . . . David Douglas the botanist . . . De Smet, Paul Kane, Milton and Cheadle . . . Sir James Hector . . . Sir Sandford Fleming . . . Railways through the park

**J**ASPER PARK is historic ground. More stirring scenes in the upbuilding of Canada have been staged in it than in any other part of the Rockies.

Men, women and children, representing a score of nationalities, have threaded its trails, and their ghosts still linger in the shadows, their influence still radiates in the colours of mountain, valley and stream.

Jasper park has a literature of its own. Among those who have left us the narrative of their experiences within its bounds are David Thompson, the fur trader, and one of the greatest geographers of the world; Gabriel Franchère, Ross Cox and Alexander Ross, participants in John Jacob Astor's attempt to monopolize the fur-trade; David Douglas, the unwearied botanist, who met an untimely death in the Sandwich islands; Edward Ermatinger, the young trader; Pierre Jean De Smet, the ubiquitous Belgian missionary to the Indians; Sir James Hector, the explorer, most accurate of observers; Dr. Wm. Cheadle, first of the tourists; and Principal Grant, of Queen's University, seeking a route for a transcontinental railway.

The town of Jasper, which is the capital of this mountainous kingdom, lies about 200 miles west of Edmonton, just below the confluence of Miette river with the Athabaska, the Miette coming from Yellowhead pass to the west, and the Athabaska from the glaciers to the south, to pursue its way in a northeasterly direction to the plains of Alberta and the Arctic ocean.

Four thousand four hundred miles of this region extending to the divide, the western boundary of Alberta, constitute Jasper park, one of the great playgrounds of the Dominion. To-day the tourist can reach the heart of it from Edmonton by

either of the two transcontinental railways in nine or ten hours. What a contrast to that pioneer journey, in 1810, of David Thompson struggling dauntlessly along with a despondent following, in the depth of winter, 6 or 8 miles a day, reducing the loads of his dogs, and abandoning even his tent that he might make any progress at all.

Pyramid Mt.

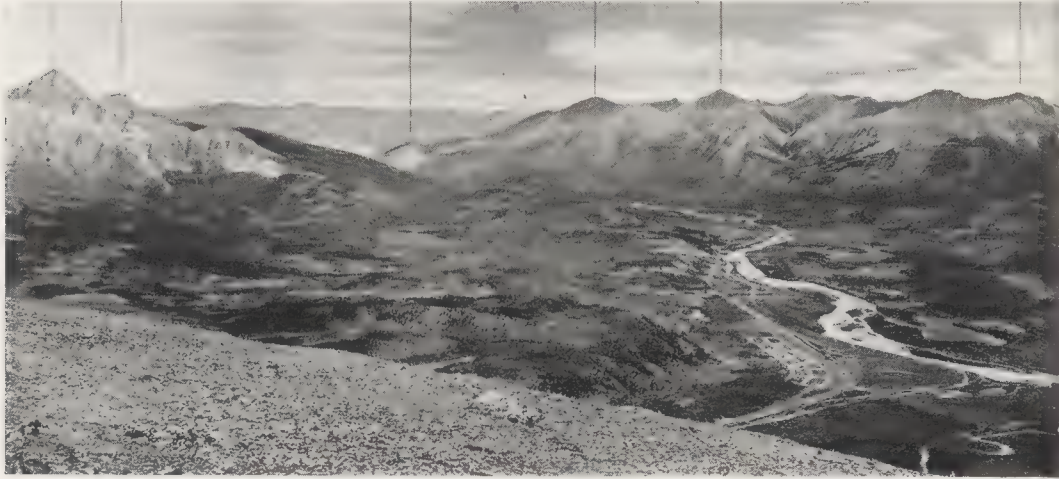
Mt. Gargoyle.

Morro Pk.

Mt. Hawk

Colin Mt.

Roche Bonhomme



Jasper and the Athabaska Valley  
From the Whistlers (25)

Jasper in foreground. Miette river on extreme right. Beauvert, Trefoil, Annette and Edith lakes on the right of the Athabaska. Pyramid and Patricia lakes on the left

Jasper park was set aside for public use in 1907. Its present boundaries were fixed in 1914.

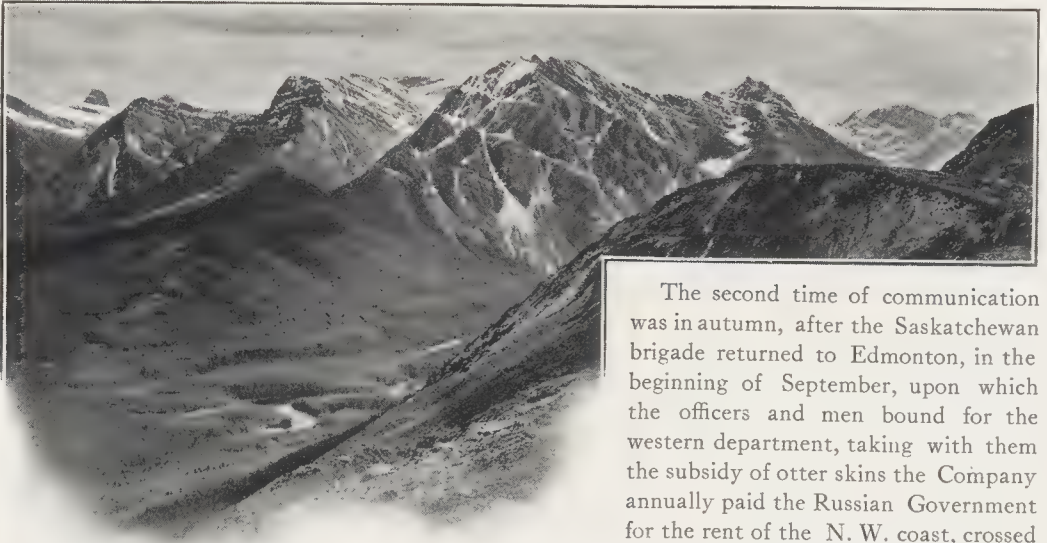
The main river in the park is the Athabaska, which throughout flows in a general northerly direction. Some of the finest Alpine scenery of the American continent is to be found at its head waters. Above Jasper its course is thirty to thirty-five degrees west of north, but almost due north till near Jasper lake and from there the general trend of the valley is about twenty-five degrees to the east. The main tributaries above Jasper are Whirlpool, Astoria and Miette rivers, all entering on the left side. Miette river, which enters about a mile above the town, is supposed to have at one time drained to both Fraser river and Athabaska river; but at present its only channel is on the eastern slope of the divide. Four miles below Jasper, Maligne river enters from the southeast following a course parallel to the main valley of the upper Athabaska, and about ten miles below this Snaring river joins, flowing from a narrow gap in the mountains to the west. Farther north the streams enter in pairs from opposite sides of the valley forming great trench-like depressions. The greatest trench is that formed by the valleys of Rocky river and Snake Indian river, the two largest tributaries of the Athabaska. These rivers enter the main stream near Hawes, the former from the southeast and the latter from the northwest. Similar parallel depressions on a smaller scale are formed by



the valleys of Fiddle river and Moosehorn creek, near Pocahontas, and by the valleys of Jacques creek and Vine creek, near Interlaken.

The events which have shaped the destiny of the park are the discovery of the Athabaska pass, in 1811, and the Yellowhead pass, about 1826. The former opened a new route to the trading posts of the Columbia, and twice a year, for many a season, the mountains resounded with the passage of the brigades with goods and passengers, between the Pacific and Hudson bay, moving with clock-like regularity. Sir James Hector says:—

In March, when the snow had acquired a crust, the express, with letters and accounts, started from Edmonton and continued on to the boat encampment, to which place, by the time they had arrived, owing to the earlier spring on the west side of the mountain, the brigade of boats had ascended from Vancouver. The mail from the western department was then exchanged, and taken back to Edmonton, and thence to Norway House, along with the Jasper House furs.



Entrance to the Athabaska Pass

Looking south from a shoulder of Mt. Edith Cavell (1)  
Whirlpool river in foreground

The second time of communication was in autumn, after the Saskatchewan brigade returned to Edmonton, in the beginning of September, upon which the officers and men bound for the western department, taking with them the subsidy of otter skins the Company annually paid the Russian Government for the rent of the N. W. coast, crossed the portage to Fort Assiniboine, then ascended the Athabaska in boats to Jasper House with pack-horses, reached the boat encampment and then descended the Columbia to Vancouver,

where they arrived generally about the first of November. The journey from York Factory or Hudson bay to the Pacific coast by this route generally occupied three and a half months, and involved an amount of hardship and toil that cannot be appreciated by those who have not seen boat travelling in these territories.

Three and a half months from Hudson bay to the Pacific coast was rapid travelling at the time and "express" was an appropriate name.

The Yellowhead pass, with the development of New Caledonia, became, from its low altitude, of great value as a means of transport for the heavy loads of dressed leather necessary for making tents, mocassins, bags and pack cords for the carrying service west of the mountains where moose and deer, and consequently leather supplies, were scarce. It was, indeed, long known as the Leather pass, though the Peace River pass was first used for this traffic and appears to have been

again used largely in preference to the Yellowhead pass as the trade grew. The merits of the Yellowhead pass only received proper recognition with the coming of the railways.

David Thompson, whose pioneer trip has been briefly mentioned, is one of the great figures in Canadian history. Indeed, a writer, perhaps himself a Scot, has asserted that Thompson was a Scotsman, and expatiated on the honour he has brought to the race. Let it be stated that Thompson was born in London, England, and that both his parents were Welsh, the family name being originally Thomas.

It was in 1797, at the age of 27, that finding the Hudson's Bay Company opposed to his making surveys and trading at the same time, Thompson left its service and entered that of the "Company of the Merchants from Canada" which, in the words of Thompson's biographer, having "much larger and more progressive ideas was anxious to obtain some accurate knowledge of the extent and character of the country in which it was carrying on its business." This was the North West Company of such daring spirits as Sir Alexander Mackenzie who reached the Arctic ocean in 1789 by the Mackenzie river and crossed overland to the Pacific in 1793, and of Simon Fraser who explored the Fraser river from Fort George to its mouth in 1808.

In 1806, two years after the North Westers had decided to extend their trade to the country west of the Rockies, the region which is now British Columbia, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and western Montana, Thompson was sent west to the North Saskatchewan with considerable powers, and for the next few years he travelled to and fro through Howse pass, establishing posts, which Duncan McGillivray had essayed to do in 1801, doubtless crossing the same pass. Thompson was on his usual journey, in the fall of 1810, when he was turned back by the warlike Piegan Indians of the plains, who, rankling under a severe defeat by the Flatheads of the mountains, were determined the traders should supply their foes with no more munitions. Alex. Henry the younger tells the story thus:—

The first severe check the Piegans ever received from the nations of the waters of the Columbia was in the summer of 1810, when they met the Flatheads and others marching to the plains in search of buffalo. The meeting was so sudden and unexpected that the Piegans could not avoid giving battle. They fought with great courage nearly all day, until the Piegans had expended their ammunition and been reduced to defend themselves with stones. A small rising ground which divided the two contending parties enabled them to come to close quarters. At last, the Piegans were obliged to retreat, leaving 16 of their warriors dead upon the field. This defeat exasperated the Piegans against us for strengthening their enemies by supplying them with arms and ammunition. They fain would wreck their vengeance upon us, but dread the consequences as it would deprive them in future of arms and ammunition, tobacco, and above all, their favourite liquor, high wine.

The Indian hostility caused the Hudson's Bay Company to drop out of the western trade in 1811, but the North Westers were not to be stopped in this fashion. Thompson altered his route to the north in an endeavour to cross the mountains by the head waters of the Athabaska river, "a route," says Alex. Henry, "by which a party of Nepisangués (Nipissings) and freemen<sup>1</sup> passed a few years ago.

<sup>1</sup> A freeman was the name applied to a man who had left the Company's service and had since tented about like the Indians, trading skins and furs.



Striking the Athabaska a short distance below Roundcroft, he crossed the river and continued along its banks to Brulé lake where on an island they came upon an old hunter's hut, small, very dirty, without any windows, and with no grass in the vicinity for the horses. They moved on to a better camp-ground, five miles north of it, at "a small fountain of water among the pines and aspens, with plenty of grass for the horses," where they remained from December 4 to December 29, preparing for the trip across the mountains.

Having secured provisions by hunting and made snow-shoes and sleds, Thompson sent Wm. Henry back to Rocky Mountain House, on the North Saskatchewan, with most of the horses, and set out on the final dash across the mountains to the Columbia river, with a party of thirteen.

Thompson's journal continues the story thus:—

January 5. Thermometer,—26 very cold. Having secured the goods and provisions we could not take with us, by 11 a. m. set off with eight sleds, to each two dogs, with goods and provisions to cross the mountains, and three horses to assist us as far as the depth of the snow will permit. . . .

January 6. We came to the last grass for the horses in marshes and along small ponds, where a herd of bisons had lately been feeding; and here we left the horses poor and tired, and notwithstanding the bitter cold, (they) lived through the winter, yet they have only a clothing of close hair, short and without any fur.

This would be, at any rate, as far up the river as the prairie de la Vache. Thompson proceeds:—

January 7. Continuing our journey, in the afternoon we came on the track of a large animal, the snow about six inches deep on the ice; I measured it; four large toes each of four inches in length to each a short claw; the ball of the foot sunk three inches lower than the toes, the hinder part of the foot did not mark well, the length fourteen inches, by eight inches in breadth, walking from north to south, and having passed about six hours. We were in no humour to follow him; the men and Indians would have it to be a young mammoth and I held it to be the track of a large grizzled bear. . . .

Thompson reverts to this subject of a monster of prehistoric size at a later stage of his journal. The Indians had an unshakeable belief in Jasper park being the haunt of this mammoth.

January 8. A fine day. We marched ten miles, and as we advance we feel the mild weather from the Pacific Ocean.

January 9. Thermometer,—32. SE wind and snowed all day which made hauling very bad. We could proceed only about four miles. . . .

January 10. Thermometer,—16. A day of snow and southerly gale of wind, the afternoon fine, the view now before us was an ascent of deep snow, in all appearance to the height of land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, it was to me a most exhilarating sight, but to my uneducated men a dreadful sight. They had no scientific object in view; our guide Thomas told us that although we could barely find wood to make a fire, we must now provide wood to pass the following night on the height of the defile we were in, and which we had to follow; my men were the most hardy that could be picked out of a hundred brave hardy men, but the scene of desolation before us was dreadful, and I knew it, a heavy gale of wind much more a mountain storm would have buried us beneath it, but thank God the weather was fine. . . . When night came we had only wood to make a bottom, and on this to lay wherewith to make a small fire, which soon burnt out and in this exposed situation we passed the rest of the long night without a fire and part of my men had strong feelings of personal insecurity; on our right about one third of a mile from us lay an enormous glacier. . . . My men were not at their ease, yet when night came they admired the brilliancy of the stars, and as one of them said, he thought he could almost touch them with his hand; as usual, when the fire was made I set off to examine the country before us, and found we had now to descend the west side of the mountains; I returned and found

part of my men with a pole of twenty feet in length boring the snow to find the bottom; I told them while we had good snow shoes it was no matter to us whether the snow was ten or one hundred feet deep. . . . Many reflections came to my mind; a new world was in a manner before me, and my object was to be at the Pacific Ocean before the month of August, how were we to find provisions, and how many men would remain with me, for they were dispirited; amidst various thoughts I fell asleep on my bed of snow.

On one of his later trips Thompson found their old camp ground covered by an avalanche.

Leaving the head of Whirlpool river, the party proceeded down Wood river to the big bend of the Columbia, where they spent the remainder of the winter building a canoe for the explorations of the coming spring, events recorded by the name Boat Encampment and Canoe river.

Wm. Henry crossed the Athabaska pass with supplies in August of this year and met Thompson, who had been expecting him, near the mouth of Canoe river early in September.

Henry had not brought everything with him, and Thompson crossed the mountains for what had been left behind, reaching Henry's camp on October 4. He records its situation as lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 24''$ , long.  $118^{\circ} 35'$ .

In May, 1812, he again recrossed the Athabaska pass with 120 packs of furs for the Montreal market, reaching Wm. Henry's camp on May 11. Henry had by this time built a house, recorded as being in lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 16''$ , apparently the Old Fort and Henry House referred to by subsequent writers as being opposite the present town of Jasper. Thompson proceeded to Montreal, and never again returned to the scene of his early explorations.

While David Thompson was fighting his way up the Athabaska, John Jacob Astor, of New York, in the pursuit of a gigantic scheme for a fur trade monopoly that would extend from the Great Lakes to the Pacific coast and thence by way of the Sandwich islands to China, had despatched a ship, the *Tonquin*, to plant at the mouth of the Columbia a trading post, which he hoped would serve as a central depot and form in time the nucleus of a powerful state.

The first published account of a trip through Jasper park was written by one of those associated with this ambitious enterprise, which a series of disasters was to frustrate. This is the "*Voyage à la côte du Nord-Ouest de l'Amérique Septentrionale*," printed at Montreal in 1820. Its author, Gabriel Franchère, was one of the party partially recruited in Montreal among the North-Westerners, who sailed from New York in 1810 on the *Tonquin*, and founded Astoria in March 1811, an event, says Washington Irving in his well-known book, "*Astoria*," which caused "a sensation to the most remote parts of the vast wilderness beyond the mountains."

The ensuing three years were to be full of sensations. Astoria had its first one on July 15, at one o'clock in the afternoon, when a canoe was seen coming down the river, manned by nine men. The boat drew nearer, and soon the British flag was discerned. A few minutes later one of the occupants stepped on land and announced himself as David Thompson of the North West Co. The consternation

of the Astorians, seeing competition coming from the direction in which it was least expected, may well be imagined. Duncan McDougall, who was in charge at Astoria and was an old North Wester, received Thompson with a cordiality which was not altogether pleasing to the rest of Astor's men. Thompson, who, apparently, was not much impressed by the strength of this rival establishment, had come on a reconnoitering expedition, after examining the possibilities of the upper waters of the river and taking formal possession for Great Britain of a site for a trading post at the confluence of Snake and Columbia rivers.

Astor's plans were carefully laid, but he was not well served by his associates. Failure to follow instructions not to permit more than a few natives on the ship at a time brought about the loss of the *Tonquin*. When on a trading voyage to Clayoquot sound, it was boarded by natives who massacred the crew save one man who managed to set fire to the powder magazine and destroyed both himself and his enemies. First of those on the ship to be killed was Alexander McKay, the trading officer, who was Sir Alexander Mackenzie's companion on his overland trip to the Pacific ocean in 1793.

Disobedience of orders by the captain of the second annual ship, the *Beaver*, (on which Ross Cox sailed as a clerk) took him to China instead of Astoria. The result was that when the war of 1812 broke out, McDougall did not know what to do. He feared the *Beaver* had met the fate of the *Tonquin* and he abandoned all hope of reinforcements and supplies, which, indeed, had been sent from New York on the *Lark*, in March, 1813, only to be lost in the wreck of that vessel at the Sandwich islands. Finally he capitulated, in October, 1813, to the North Westers, "selling out Mr. Astor at about 40 cents on the dollar." The purchase was negotiated for the buyers by John George McTavish who had come overland, and who by a few days forestalled a British man-of-war, which arrived to find the British flag flying, and to hear that Astoria was now Fort George. Had it not been for this "nefarious transaction," as Elliott Coues calls it, Astor would have lost everything.

Several of the clerks of Astor's company returned home overland by the Athabaska pass, among their number being Franchère, Ross Cox and Alexander Ross, all of whom have left narratives of the journey.

There were 76 men, exclusive of their families, in the brigade with which Franchère travelled east, in 1814—Scotsmen, French Canadians, Halfbreeds, Iroquois, Chinooks, Hawaiians, with their women and children, an extraordinary collection of human beings.

This crowd on the march or wading the icy waters of the "Grande Traverse" of the Athabaska, must have presented a curious scene.

Franchère was in the fifth of the ten canoes in which the journey to the Boat Encampment was made. Then starting from the summit of the Athabaska pass, the route descended along the head waters of the Whirlpool river, the *rivière du Trou* or Hole river of those days, so called from a deep hole in the Athabaska near its mouth. The "campement de Fusil" "Gun encampment" was the first resting place. Farther on was the "Grande batture" and then "campement

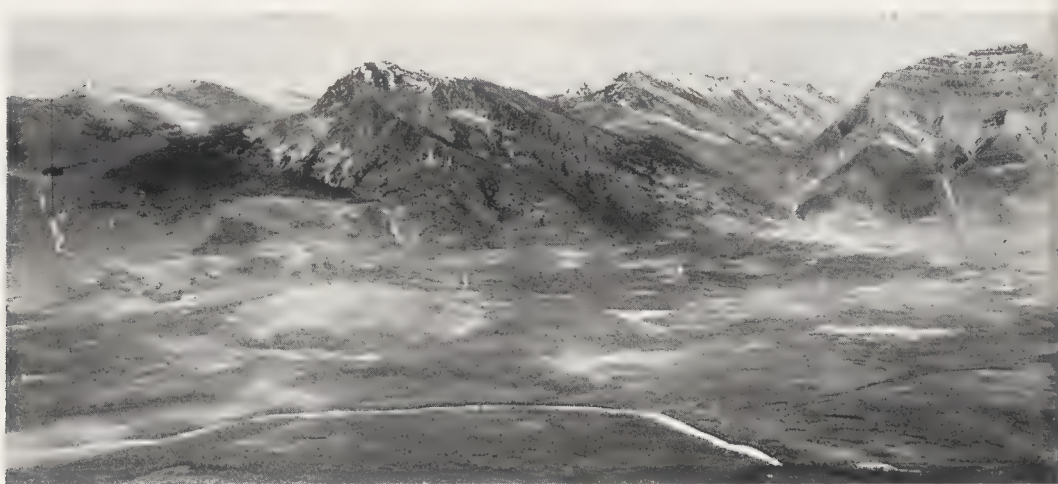


d'Orignal" or "Moose encampment," where horses usually met the party. Proceeding, the brigade arrived at "la Grande traverse" or "la traverse du Trou" where the Athabaska was forded, often not without difficulty and danger. The route continued on the east side of the Athabaska past the prairie de la Vache to the Old Fort, opposite the mouth of the Miette river, where canoes were waiting.

Hardisty Ck.

Mt. Hardisty

Mt. Kerkeslin



Athabaska and Whirlpool Rivers

From a shoulder of Mt. Edith Cavell (1). The "traverse du trou" was somewhere about here

Franchère reached the Old Fort on May 17. It was beautiful for situation surrounded with prairie and woodland; but the house had been abandoned by the North Westers four or five years previously. Franchère's words are:—

Nous parvinmes tous à une vieille maison que la Compagnie du N. O. avait fait construire autrefois, mais qu'elle avait abandonnée depuis quatre ou cinq ans. Le site de cette maison est on ne peut plus charmant; il suffit de dire qu'elle est bâtie sur une des rives de la jolie rivière Athabaska, et est entourée de riantes et vertes prairies et de bosquets superbes.

Franchère viewing these fair fields in the springtime, thought it a pity there was no one there to admire them. To-day they form the site of Jasper.

This uninhabited house is also mentioned by Ross Cox, who returned east in the spring of 1817, in charge of a brigade of 86 Pacific Fur Company people, which included Duncan McDougall. He describes it as built as a hunting lodge for trappers, but abandoned owing to scarcity of provisions. He gives its latitude as 52° 53' 10".

On May 19, Franchère and his companions having abandoned their canoe which was leaking, overtook John McDonald, of Garth, who had set out in charge of the first canoe of the brigade, at a post which McDonald calls "Jasper House." The post, which was on the west shore of Brulé lake, is described by Franchère as being in the middle of a wood and almost everywhere surrounded by steep rocks. A Mr. Decoigne was in charge.

Ross Cox describes the building as a miserable concern of rough logs, with only three apartments, but scrupulously clean inside. An old clerk, Jasper Hawes, was in charge. He gives the latitude as  $53^{\circ} 18' 40''$ .

Some distance below Brulé lake, on May 25, two of Franchère's companions were drowned in the rapids, Olivier Roy Lapensée and André Bélanger. Only Lapensée's body was recovered, and over his grave Franchère erected a wooden cross, first cutting an inscription on it.



Roche Miette and Jasper Lake from Mt. Greenock (63)

Rocky river below Roche Miette. Talbot lake beyond Jasper lake. Jasper House was on the extreme left of the view

Alexander Ross, in 1825, found difficulty in the same region. He writes:—

From Jasper's House, the river widens and becomes larger; the current strong, and rapids frequent. Their appearance admonished us to proceed with great caution; yet, with all our care, we broke one of our canoes, and before we could get to shore our bark was half filled. Ten minutes delay, and we were again in the water, but had not gone far before a second disaster sent us ashore. At this place a wooden cross was stuck up in the edge of the woods, and on examining it I found it marked the grave of one of the old Tonquin adventurers. . . . On it was cut, in still legible characters "Olivie Lapensie, from Lachine, drowned here in May 1814."

Ross crossed the Athabaska pass with Sir George Simpson. The North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company had amalgamated four years previously under the title of the Hudson's Bay Company, and young George Simpson had been appointed Governor. Ross notes that a small circular basin of water at the summit, twenty yards in diameter is dignified with the name of the "Committee's Punch Bowl," in honour of which the Governor treated them to a bottle of wine as they had "neither time nor convenience to make a bowl of punch, although a glass of it would have been very acceptable." "It is," he adds, "a tribute always paid to this place when a nabob of the fur trade passes by."

Ross thus describes the arrival at the Old Fort:—

On approaching this establishment, situated under the brow of the mountain ridge, we had anticipated a gloomy place; but the very reverse was the case. We advanced, from the water's edge, up an inclined plane, some two or three hundred yards in length smooth as a bowling green, and skirted on each side by regular rows of trees and shrubs, the whole presenting the appearance of an avenue leading

to some great man's castle, which had a very pleasing effect. Here, however, we found no lordly dwellings, but a neat little group of wood huts suited to the climate of the country, rendered comfortable and filled with cheerful and happy inmates; and what gave to the place a cheering aspect was the young grass forming a pleasing contrast to the snow-clad heights around. Here my old friend Joseph F  lix Larocque, Esq., an old North-wester, and formerly of Columbia, was in charge.

They found Jasper House in charge of "a man by the name of Klyne, a jolly old fellow, with a large family."

Michel Klyne was still postmaster in 1834.

Through Jasper park, in the spring of 1827, there tramped with some 50 lbs. of seeds secured in an oilcloth on his back, which he would trust to no one else to carry, David Douglas, the Scottish botanist, after whom the Douglas fir is named. Always eager to increase his store of learning, be it even of the Chinook language, but sometimes "molested out of his life" by the voyageurs of the brigade of which he was the guest.

He reached Jasper House on May 4. Two days later he overtook a New Caledonia packet consisting of George McDougall and four men, who had battled down their way east by the newly discovered Yellowhead pass, reaching Jasper House on April 18. Douglas named the mountains on either side of the Athabaska pass mount Brown, after R. Brown, "the illustrious botanist," and mount Hooker in honour of his "early patron, the professor of botany in the university of Glasgow." The higher of these peaks is only 10,500 feet, but till 1893 they appeared on maps on Douglas' estimate of their height, as being about 17,000 feet, and the

highest mountains on the North American continent.

Douglas mentions that a fellow Scot Thomas Drummond, assistant naturalist on the second Franklin expedition, spent the summer of 1826 in the neighbourhood of Jasper, going east in November to Edmonton.

It was with the York factory brigade of Edward Ermat-Binger that Douglas travelled, and his diary shows us interesting glimpses of this "agreeable young



Photo by Horetzky

#### Jasper House and Roche Ronde

The mountain on the right is Roche Ronde; the one on the left is Roche    Bosche. Note the Indian trapper, his camping pack on his back, his flint-lock gun and the big-horn head at his feet



man," as he calls the trader who regaled them over the camp fires with tunes on the flute and on the violin. Of course, there was dancing. Douglas says dance he could not, but he endeavoured to please by jumping. We are introduced to another pioneer, who, apparently, had a horse ranch opposite the mouth of Snaring river. How modern is "old Jacques Cardinal," who, when Douglas met him at the Moose encampment, as he came up the pass to meet the brigade with horses, roasted a mountain sheep and for drink mentioning he had no spirits, pointed to the river and said: "This is my barrel, and it is always running."



Photo by Horetzky

#### Jasper House and Roche Miette

Sir James Hector, who visited the place a few years before Horetzky, describes it as follows:

"... the little group of buildings which form the 'fort' have been constructed, in keeping with their picturesque situation, after the Swiss style, with overhanging roofs and trellised porticos."

It reads better than it looks

Following the agreement of 1839 with Russia for a lease of a strip of the Alaska coast line, the Hudson's Bay Company sent Wm. Glen Rae, C. T. Douglas, John McLoughlin, junior, and Roderick Finlayson, with 20 servants to take possession of the Russian establishment at the entrance of the Stikine river. According to Beckles Willson, some of the members of this party including seemingly Roderick Finlayson, travelled overland by way of Jasper with the Columbia brigade. At any rate, in the following year, 3,000 land otter skins in which the rent was to be paid, were sent across the mountains by the Columbia brigade.

In the spring of 1846, the Belgian missionary, Pierre Jean De Smet, arrived from Edmonton in a cariole drawn by four dogs, and spent 26 days in the vicinity of

Jasper. A few days later, we find him at the head of the pass cheerfully undertaking a fast of 30 days to reduce his corpulence sufficiently to enable him to continue his journey to the Columbia, for the first time in his life, on snow-shoes. At the summit, he met the Hudson's Bay brigade with which were "old friends," "Captains Ward and Vavasour," who were returning to England from a mission to the mouth of the Columbia. Ward took De Smet's letters for Europe.

De Smet gives the location of Jasper House as the foot of Jasper lake.

Paul Kane, the painter, author of "Wanderings in North America," visited this new Jasper House in November of the same year, going west. He describes it as consisting of

Only three miserable log huts. The dwelling house is composed of two rooms of about fourteen or fifteen feet square each. One of them is used by all comers and goers: Indians, voyageurs and traders, men, women and children being huddled together indiscriminately, the other room being devoted to the exclusive occupation of Colin and his family, consisting of a Cree squaw and nine interesting half-breed children.

This was Colin Fraser, postmaster at Jasper House since 1840. The squaw, it is interesting to note, was one of 44 people baptised by De Smet on his visit.



Photo by Horetzky

#### Fort Edmonton in the Time of the Fur Trade

A great city now spreads over this ground. The photographs of Horetzky reproduced here are probably the first photographs ever taken in Saskatchewan and Alberta. There were no films or dry plates then and it was no light undertaking to carry a photographer's outfit across a mountain wilderness, as Horetzky did

In the late fifties, gold was discovered in Cariboo, and Jasper found itself on the trail in the rush that followed. A party of four goldseekers returned east in 1861 with a pile of \$1,600. Well nigh 200 emigrants from the east passed through Yellowhead pass in 1862, on an overland journey that was for some of them 1,900 miles long. The largest party numbered 150. Two other parties followed. Their greatest difficulties began after passing Jasper, and many perished in the mountains beyond. Four were drowned in the Fraser, and two in the Thompson. Of the last party of five, only two reached safety. This appears to have deterred others

The gold fever was at its height when Dr. W. B. Cheadle and Viscount Milton came out from England to explore the west.

Cheadle who later achieved eminence in his profession was 27 years of age and Milton four years younger. "The North West Passage by Land" is the story of

their adventures. Dr. Cheadle is the author of this entrancing volume, which has been frequently reprinted since the first issue in 1865.

There were those who thought gold might be found east of the Rockies, and Milton and Cheadle, at Edmonton, met a band of miners who had been prospecting on the North Saskatchewan. Their Captain, a Kentuckian name Love, told them he had come east through the Yellowhead pass. Three members of this party preceded the Englishmen to the west by a few days.



On the way to Jasper in the Old Days

Photo by Horetzky

The Red River carts, made entirely of wood without a single nail, were used for crossing the great plains. It took two months from Fort Garry (Winnipeg) to Edmonton, and three weeks more, with pack horses, to reach Jasper. Note the Indian tepee of buffalo skin

Milton and Cheadle travelled up the Athabaska to the mouth of the Miette river, and then followed the latter to the Yellowhead pass. At Tête Jaune Cache they turned south and with much difficulty worked their way down the North Thompson river to Kamloops.

Questions in the Imperial Parliament, in 1857, about the lease of the Indian territories to the Hudson's Bay Company, which was about to expire, led to the Palliser expedition to the western prairies. Sir James Hector, M.D., was the geologist to this party, and in the unusually severe winter of 1859, he visited Jasper park from Edmonton. He set out on January 12, going up the river from Fort Assiniboine, travelling for fourteen days on the ice with dogs. The night the party reached Jasper House they had to ford a rapid on the Athabaska breast deep,



carrying the dog sledges on their shoulders, although the thermometer was 1 below zero.

Hector ascended to where the Athabaska is but "a small rivulet."

The return trip to Edmonton was begun on February 19, the route being the direct one through the woods now followed by the railway. Edmonton was reached on March 6.

Most of the early travel in summer was by canoe. Later, when the Red River settlement commenced to assume importance, the greater part of the summer travel to Jasper was across the prairie with native ponies and Red River carts built entirely of wood without a single nail or piece of iron. The trip from Fort Garfield to Edmonton took over two months; from Edmonton to Jasper, the carts were discarded and pack-horses resorted to.



Photo by Topley

On the way to Jasper now  
The trip from Winnipeg takes 38 hours

1871, it appeared that the Yellowhead pass offered the greater inducements, having less severe grades and fewer difficulties of construction. However, general exploration was continued until 1876, and many different passes were examined, all results tending to confirm the first verdict that the Yellowhead pass was the most suitable.

The most complete account of any of these trips is that of the Sandford Fleming expedition of 1872, chronicled in "Ocean to Ocean" by Principal Grant.

Sir Sandford Fleming, the Chief Engineer, was very strongly in favour of a route through this pass, down North Thompson river to Kamloops, and thence down the Fraser to the coast, practically the same route as followed by the Canadian Northern railway to-day. By the end of 1879, complete location surveys had been made, though no actual construction work had been done near the mountains.

A radical change was, however, made in the whole route of the transcontinental railway during the year 1880. The general location was moved 150 miles south of the Yellowhead pass, as so to cross the mountains by Kicking Horse pass.

In the year 1871, the mountains and their passes became a matter of national interest. British Columbia joined the Confederation, and one of the conditions of the agreement was the construction of a transcontinental railway, to be commenced in two years and finished within ten years of the date of the union. Search for a practicable route through the mountains, the chief obstacle to the undertaking, was at once commenced. The reports of early explorers indicated that the choice of routes lay between the Yellowhead and Howse passes. As a result of preliminary surveys, in

It is interesting to note that the great advantages of the Yellowhead pass with a summit altitude of only 3,727 feet were early recognized although not utilized for a railway until the Grand Trunk Pacific was constructed, more than a quarter of a century later.

The railways enter the Park running in a southerly direction on opposite sides of the Athabaska river, the Canadian Northern on the left or west bank, and the Grand Trunk Pacific on the right bank. They continue up the river in this position until above Jasper lake, where the Grand Trunk Pacific crosses to the same side of the river as the Canadian Northern, and at the Snaring river the two railways are only about thirty rods apart. Two miles above this, the Canadian Northern crosses under the Grand Trunk Pacific, and from there to Jasper continues closer to the river and considerably lower than the latter. Beyond Jasper both railways turn sharply to the west up the narrow valley of the Miette river, coming very close together for about two miles, when the Canadian Northern crosses the Miette on a long wooden trestle. From here, both roadbeds are cut out along the steep cliffs which form the sides of the narrow valley, until near Geikie station, when the Grand Trunk Pacific crosses to the south of the Miette river, and for three miles the two tracks are laid along the same right of way. The Grand Trunk Pacific then re-crosses to the north side of the Miette, and from there on, the railways remain on opposite sides of the valley.

The low grades maintained by these railways throughout their climb to the summit of the pass are very remarkable. At Parkgate near the eastern limit of the park, the elevation of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway is 3,283 feet above sea-level, and at Yellowhead pass, which it crosses through a cut seven feet deep, the elevation of the rail is only 3,721 feet. This means that in a distance of fifty-two miles, the total ascent is only 438 feet, an average of less than nine feet to the mile. The Canadian Northern enters the park about ninety feet below the Grand Trunk Pacific, and crosses the pass at an elevation of 3,712 feet. In both cases the steepest grades occur in the valley of the Miette river between Jasper and the pass, but in neither case does the maximum exceed one half of one per cent.



Saxifrage







Bighorn Head

## CHAPTER II

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PARK

Beauty of the mountains . . . Vividly coloured lakes . . . Characteristics of the Athabaska river  
Rapid rise and fall of streams . . . Storekeeper's narrow escape . . . The towns of Jasper and Pocat-  
hontas . . . Animals . . . Birds . . . Fish . . . Trees and Plants

**T**HE SCENERY of Jasper park adjacent to the railway is not of the rugged nature of some of the more remote districts, but nevertheless it has many charms. As Principal Grant says:—

There is a wonderful combination of beauty about these mountains. Great masses of boldly defined bare rock are united to the beauty that variety of form, colour and vegetation give. A noble river with many tributaries, each defining a distinct range, a beautiful lake ten miles long, embosomed three thousand three hundred feet above the sea, among mountains twice as high, offer innumerable scenes, seldom to be found within the same compass, to the artist.

There are many small vividly coloured lakes throughout the park, particularly in the vicinity of Jasper, and many gorges and waterfalls. In the district to the north of Jasper the rocks are chiefly of a limestone formation, and there are very few streams that have not at least one interesting waterfall or gorge. The unusually wide valley of the Athabaska, with its many channels and open meadows, gives a sense of freedom often lacking in mountain regions. Farther back from the railway are many fine alpine districts where lofty snow-clad peaks and huge ice-fields offer inducements to those athletic travellers who find their chief recreation in scaling almost inaccessible heights.

Like other glacier streams, Athabaska river carries a great deal of sediment and wherever the current becomes sluggish some of this is deposited. The wide expansions at Jasper lake and Brulé lake form excellent settling basins for this sediment and it is probable that in a few years these lakes will become entirely silted up. The large sand bars visible in low water near the upper end of these lakes indicate how rapidly the change is taking place. D.B. Dowling, of the Geo-

logical Survey, suggests that a former lake between Brulé lake and Jasper lake has already been filled up. To quote his report (Summary Report 1910, Geol. Survey Canada):—

Gravel terraces similar to those on the Bow river are found at elevations up to 300 feet above the present river. These, no doubt, belong to the same period as the transported deposits known as the Saskatchewan gravels. The tributary streams entering on each side are moving a large amount of gravel into the Athabaska valley, and in almost every case show a steady growth of fan deposit near the mouth. Thus, at the mouth of Fiddle river, the steeper grade of the tributary stream has enabled it to move material towards the Athabaska river that could not be removed by the current of that stream. Consequently the river has been forced over against the rocky walls of the ridges on the north side. At the mouth of Moosehorn creek, a smaller collection of river-borne material forms a flat fan, which occupies a part of the river flat. This appears to be due to the activity of the current of Moosehorn creek. The large tributaries from both north and south, which enter the Athabaska near Roche Miette, may have been the agents causing the formation of Jasper lake, by moving material into the valley and thus forming an obstruction partially damming back the water. Brulé lake, although it seems to be silting up, has no doubt also been lowered by the erosion of the barrier at the outlet. This barrier consists of the tilted beds of the Cretaceous sandstone, separated by shale, so that it forms a succession of hard ribs. The channel being cut through them from Brulé lake to the mouth of Prairie creek, although having a thoroughly uniform heavy gradient, is still in process of erosion where each of the ribs crosses it. The gradient in the channel which has been cut through this barrier steepens perceptibly after leaving the lake, and there are several rapids, but none at the outlet so that the erosion which is still going on does not immediately threaten the existence of the lake. (View page 77)

Along the east shore of Jasper lake, large sandbanks have been formed by the wind which carries the fine sand from the lake shore and deposits it in the more sheltered places. Between Interlaken and Hawes, a ridge ten or twenty feet high has been built up for about three miles between Jasper lake and Talbot lake. This ridge, sparsely timbered with jack pine and spruce, is never more than a quarter of a mile wide and in some places not more than one hundred yards. Similar action may be observed along the east shore of Brulé lake.

Much of the area within the park has been swept by fire, though fortunately the heads of many fine valleys have been spared. Some say that this fire was caused by a quarrel between two tribes of Indians, one of whom started the fire in an attempt to destroy the other. Now much of the country is covered with old brush overgrown with small poplar and jack pine. The valley of Athabaska river is comparatively open, with large prairie-like meadows. The timber is a light growth



Photo by Top

#### Pyramid Lake

The play of the shadows on the water and the exquisite colouring of the lakes make pictures of great beauty.

of poplar and jack pine, interspersed with scattered Douglas fir in the drier parts, and in the swamps it is chiefly spruce.

As a result of the denuded nature of the country, one very noticeable feature is the rapid rise and fall of the streams. It is no uncommon sight to see in a harmless looking stream, a few feet in width, a gravel bar several hundred feet wide covered with recently uprooted trees, bearing mute witness to the power that has been exerted. It is related that an early storekeeper who was crossing Fiddle river with a team of horses and a wagon load of supplies, stopped in the stream to remove some of the boulders and while doing so heard a roar above him. So rapidly did the water rise, that to save himself he had to abandon both team and wagon.

**TOWNS.** The two places of principal importance within the park are Jasper and Pocahontas. Pocahontas lies just within the first high range of mountains, while Jasper is about twenty-seven miles farther in. Pack trains and equipment for tourists may be obtained at either place, although the majority of guides and outfitters have made their headquarters at Jasper. This is probably because Jasper lies nearer to the higher ranges adjacent to the summit of the Rocky mountains, regions such as Robson district for example. Both places may be reached by either the Grand Trunk Pacific or the Canadian Northern railway. At Jasper both stations are on the west side of the river, are known by the same name and are only about half a mile apart. At Pocahontas, the Grand Trunk Pacific station, the town and station are on the east side of Athabaska river, Bedson, the corresponding C. N. Ry. station being on the opposite side. There is no bridge across the river at that point, but there are nearly always boats on either side so that little difficulty is experienced in crossing.

Jasper, a divisional point on the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, is also the headquarters of the park staff. Here the government has recently erected an artistic bungalow built of the boulders so abundant in the vicinity. In this building, which serves as a resi-



Photo by Deville

#### Lake Patricia

Clouds vanish as quickly as they come. Their ever changing shapes and rapid flight across the mountains are full of interest

dence for the superintendent of the park, provision has been made for the administration offices required at the present time. It is the desire of the government that other permanent buildings should be of a similar architectural design,



constructed either of logs or wood, so that in the future the town may present a harmonious appearance in keeping with its picturesque surroundings.

The town lies on a gravelly bench about two miles long and half a mile wide and approximately sixty feet above the river. To the north and west, there is a steep



Lake Beauvert from Oldfort Point (26)  
Tent city on far side of lake. Athabaska river beyond

hill two to three hundred feet high, and beyond this there is a rolling plateau about two miles in width. On the north this plateau commences below a shoulder of Pyramid mountain, reaching eastward toward

the railway. From here it extends southward, and swinging to the west above Jasper, parallels the valley of the Miette for about ten miles. One of the most noticeable features of this plateau is the number of small lakes and ponds scattered over it, many of which are well stocked with fish. Chief among these are Pyramid, Patricia, Cabin and Caledonia lakes. Hidden among the ridges it is probable that many lakes remain as yet unvisited by man.

On the opposite side of the river, there is a wide flat extending north beyond Maligne river. On this flat there are also a number of



Photo by Deville  
Superintendent's Residence and Offices, Jasper

very attractive lakes, the more important ones being Beauvert, Annette and Edith lakes. This district has been burned over but fortunately much of the timber surrounding the lakes has been spared so that their beauty is unmarred by fire.

Pocahontas, which takes its name from a coal mining town in southern Virginia, is situated on the east bank of Athabaska river just within the gateway to the mountains, formed by Boule Roche and Roche à Perdrix, and at the base of that well



Photo by Topley

Bridge over the Athabaska River at Oldfort Point

known landmark, Roche Miette. It is a mining town and the headquarters of the Jasper Park Collieries. Coal mines have been opened on both sides of the river, though only those on the east side have been worked extensively. The coal is bituminous but somewhat harder than the Crowsnest coal. The station, postoffice, mounted police barracks, mine buildings, and residences are on a small bench lying close to the river, while on the bench above, about three hundred feet higher, houses have been built for the miners. On the opposite side of the river at the

mouth of Ronde creek, a short distance above the Canadian Northern station, Bedson, there is another small settlement.

**ANIMALS.** During the location and construction of the two transcontinental railways the greater portion of the big game was either destroyed or driven away from the main valleys of the Athabaska, the open flats and grassy meadows of which had afforded excellent ranges for deer while the lower mountain ranges with their wide grassy slopes above timber line had been the natural pasture ground of mountain sheep.



Photo by Topley

Superintendent's Residence and Offices, Jasper

Under the efficient protection given by the Parks regulations and the excellent staff of rangers, there is no doubt that game of all kinds is rapidly increasing.

**MOUNTAIN SHEEP AND GOATS.** The mountains of the Maligne range extending southeast to the Brazeau are the favourite resort of mountain goats and sheep and on two occasions the surveyors saw sheep here. Once three allowed them to ap



Dinner Ready?

Wild animals in the park become very tame. This bear was quite punctual at the meal hours of the survey party

the lower valleys. During the summer their favourite haunt seems to be the high grassy alps near timber line. Early in the season several were seen below Signal mountain and in July there were a number at the head of Portal creek and in the Tonquin valley, three one evening passing close to the horses and within one hundred yards of camp. Later, on Mount Maccarib, seven were observed lying on a snow-spot a short distance below the peak.

**DEER.** Deer are plentiful and are frequently seen in the vicinity of Jasper, particularly near Pyramid lake and prairie de la Vache. It is probable that during the summer months they leave the lower valleys and go to the timber or higher slopes to avoid the flies.

Moose are to be found in the region lying to the west of Brulé lake.

**BEARS.** There are quite a large number of bears and the Park officers are con

proach within fifteen yards before taking fright and then they ran only about fifty yards away and started feeding again. A large herd of sheep is seen daily on the southern slopes of Roche Miette on the banks of the Rocky river. These have been photographed on several occasions by the local warden at Pocahontas. Mr. A. C. Wheeler reports that in the fall of 1913 he saw twenty-six while making one climb in the vicinity of Shovel pass.

The Rocky Mountain goat may be seen occasionally near the river but his usual habitat is in the more rugged mountain farther back. This animal is found in almost all of the higher ranges and the Superintendent reported in the early part of 1914 that he had seen a number on the slopes of mount Kerkeslin, near the mouth of the Whirlpool river. A band of six was seen on the cliffs of Marmot mountain and others in the valley of Portal creek.

**CARIBOU.** Caribou are seldom seen in the lower valleys. During the summer their favourite haunt seems to be the high grassy alps near timber line. Early in the season several were seen below Signal mountain and in July there were a number at the head of Portal creek and in the Tonquin valley, three one evening passing close to the horses and within one hundred yards of camp. Later, on Mount Maccarib, seven were observed lying on a snow-spot a short distance below the peak.



Bighorn Sheep

Photo by Harmer



tinually reporting grizzly, cinnamon and black bear seen on their patrols in many portions of the park area.

**BEAVER.** Beaver are increasing very rapidly and are singularly devoid of fear, especially near Brulé and Jasper lakes and the streams running into them. One evening, near Pocahontas, while crossing the river in a motor boat, two were seen and although the channel was not more than fifty feet wide, one continued working until the boat passed. South of Coronach creek, a beaver dam had flooded the trail to such an extent that it was necessary to swim the horses. Another colony may be found near the mouth of the Miette river.



Goat

number of mink including two families of black mink which the local warden keeps under constant surveillance.

**ELK.** There are no elk at present in the park but the valley of the Athabaska from the junction of the Miette to its source is stated to have been noted in early days as one of the best hunting grounds for elk in the Canadian Rockies. In 1914 the Superintendent found in one trip to the south side of mount Kerkeslin the heads and horns of over one hundred elk, which seems to bear out that fact. With efficient protection elk will soon return to the park.

**RABBITS.** Rabbits are very numerous and unfortunately are somewhat destructive of the younger tree growth. They apparently die off in great numbers every seventh year. During the years of abundance, the district where they are found is infested with coyotes, but when the rabbits die off these predatory animals almost desert that locality.

The season of 1913 was one during which rabbits died off in great numbers and coyotes were rare.

**MARMOT.** Of other animals the one most likely to attract the attention of the traveller is the whistler or marmot, which makes its home in rocks near timber line. There is a large colony among the rocks near the head of Whistlers creek and when alarmed, the whole valley resounds with their shrill, piercing calls.



Photo by H. I. Smith  
Moose

**PORCUPINE, SQUIRREL, ETC.** The pika or little chief hare, about the size of a grey squirrel, also makes his home in the high rock slides. He closely resembles hare in appearance. Lower down the yellow-haired porcupine is occasionally seen. Squirrels and chipmunks are very common and many varieties of smaller rodents may be found by those sufficiently familiar with their habits.

**PTARMIGAN.** Ptarmigan were seen frequently throughout the summer and appeared to be of two varieties. Several birds with young, seen in July near the head of Meadow creek, appeared much darker than those found in the mountains farther south, and gave a call not unlike the quack of a duck. At the end of September, a large flock, many of which



Skunk

were quite white, was seen on the Maligne range behind mount Tekarra. Several varieties of grouse may be found, among them Franklin's grouse, sometimes called the fool-hen because it is so tame that it can be easily knocked over with a stick, the dusky or blue grouse and the ruffed grouse. The ravages of the coyotes are a serious check to the

**DUCKS.** During the migratory seasons very large flocks of wild geese, swans and ducks cover the lakes and the enlargements of the Athabaska river, especially in the vicinity of Interlaken. The sloughs and streams of the Miette river are also a favourite resting ground.

**EAGLE AND OWL.** Birds of prey are not numerous. Several hawks were seen and in Portalvalley a golden eagle was observed three or four times, circling around the peaks. A number of horned owls were noticed during the summer and in the fall their melancholy hoot was heard nearly every night. These birds, like the coyotes doubtless depend largely on rabbits for their subsistence.

**OTHER BIRDS.** The smaller birds include the robin, the humming-bird, and the whiskey-jack. Crows and ravens visit the park occasionally. Many varieties of thrushes, sparrows, warblers and other small birds are to be found.

**FISH.** Most of the year the Athabaska itself is too turbid for fishing, but trout are numerous in many of the smaller streams. Many of the lakes near Jasper, including Pyramid and Patricia lakes, are well stocked, and Jacques lake, lying between the Maligne and Rocky rivers, is frequently visited by enthusiastic anglers from both Jasper and Pochontas.

**TREES AND PLANTS.** The most common tree in the fire-swept valley of the Athabaska and along its lower slopes is the jack pine, a hardy tree that is the first to spring up in the dry burnt soil left by a severe fire. Much poplar, usually small, but sometimes nine inches in diameter, is found on the flats and along the base of the mountains. There is throughout a scattered growth of Douglas fir and near

Jasper, living trees four feet in diameter may be found. In the swamps and on moist ground, spruce and cottonwood sometimes grow to a large size. In the higher valleys untouched by fire, the timber is chiefly spruce and balsam with a few spreading pine trees of a variety peculiar to high altitudes. Alder and willow are found throughout, different varieties of the latter ranging from the lowest valleys to the extreme edge of timber line.

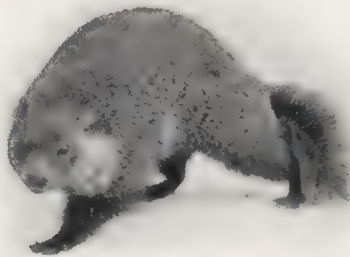
During the month of July, large quantities of strawberries of large size and excellent flavour can be gathered on the open flats in the vicinity of Jasper. In August saskatoon or service berries are abundant in the flats lying to the north of Fiddle river and very fine raspberries can be found along the trail from Pocahontas to the Miette hot springs and in the Athabaska valley above Maligne river. Three varieties of blueberries were seen, but none of them in large quantities. There were also a few gooseberry bushes but the fruit did not appear to be properly matured.

An exhaustive study of the flowers and plants of this district has yet to be made. In 1911, a partial investigation was made by members of the Smithsonian Institution and the results were published in a special edition of the Canadian Alpine Journal for 1912. Among the more common plants mentioned in the report are the following:—

Kinnikinnic, Lily (Adder's Tongue and Wild Orange Lily), Spring Beauty, Western Pasque Flower, Dryas, Sorrel, Bluebell, Wild Rose, Aster, Fleabane, Lily of the Valley, Paintbrush and Goldenrod.

There are at least three species of ferns, Parsley fern, Fragile fern and Oak fern. Orchids also were well represented although they are not very common. Representatives of the following families also occur:—

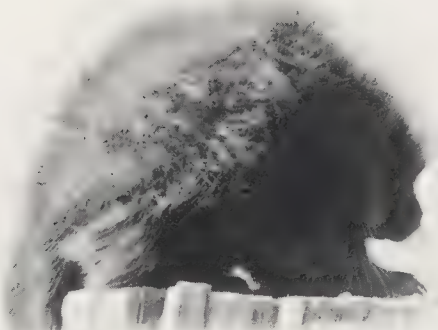
Goosefoot, Purslane, Saxifrage, Vetch, Flax, Primrose, Dogwood, Wintergreen and Parsley.



Groundhog







Porcupine

### CHAPTER III

#### TRIPS SOUTH FROM JASPER

Oldfort point . . . The Whistlers . . . Mt. Edith Cavell . . . Tonquin valley  
and Amethyst lakes . . . Athabaska falls

**OLDFORT POINT.** Oldfort Point is a bare knoll lying about a quarter of a mile east from the south end of the bridge across the Athabaska river. It is a little over four hundred feet above the river and there is a well-marked footpath leading to the summit. It may be reached easily from Jasper in about an hour, and for the amount of labour involved, affords a splendid view of the Athabaska valley.

To the northeast and north lie Roche Bonhomme and the Colin range; in the immediate foreground lake Beauvert, and farther away Trefoil lakes, Annette lake and Edith lake, nestling among the green timber. To the left of these, Athabaska river winds down the valley and disappears around a bend in the distance. Across the Athabaska the two railways may be plainly seen, the higher one being the Grand Trunk Pacific. Far down the valley on the west side, the long wall of Roche De Smet is plainly visible while still farther to the left, Pyramid mountain, its rocky walls streaked with red, rises to a height of 9,076 feet. To the west lies Jasper and the valley of Miette river, while close by, the road winds down the hill between Twin lakes and crosses Athabaska river. South of the Miette, in the angle formed between it and the Athabaska lies "the Whistlers," a bare flat-topped mountain about 8,000 feet elevation.

Up Athabaska river, the view of the valley is cut out by some low rolling ridges of about the same elevation as Oldfort point, but the view of the peaks is not obscured. Chief among these, Lectern peak, named from its resemblance to a church lectern, by G. E. Howard in 1913, may be easily identified by its sharp apex and long symmetrical shoulders, and higher up the river the monarch of the district, mount Edith Cavell, rears its snow-clad summit nearly 7,500 feet above the valley.

On the east side of the river and close at hand lies mount Tekarra (8,818 feet) and to the right of that is mount Kerkeslin, its sharp triangular apex 9,790 feet above sea-level. Tekarra was the Indian guide of Sir James Hector, Kerkeslin is also name given by him. On a clear day, far to the south, may be seen a black square



Jasper from Oldfort Point (26)

Twin lakes and bridge across Athabaska in foreground. Miette valley on the left. The top of Mt. Henry is just visible over the hill above the town

rock closely resembling the Devil's head near Banff, as seen from the east, and to the right of that, a black peak almost as high as mount Edith Cavell. The height of this peak is 10,988 feet above sea-level while that of mount Edith Cavell is 11,033 feet.

**THE WHISTLERS (8,085).** This mountain is situated just above the junction of the Miette river with Athabaska river, the summit lying about four miles south-west of Jasper. A good trail has been built and the trip to it from Jasper and return may be made easily in one day by saddle horses, or on foot, provided the tourist is in good physical condition.

Leaving Jasper we follow the wagon road to the Miette bridge, about a mile and a half from the station, crossing Cabin creek and passing under the railway. A little beyond the bridge a road turns to the left along the base of some rock bluffs and about three hundred yards from the main road a trail turns to the right up the hill.

As we climb slowly up this trail, the valleys below gradually widen out and the view constantly takes on new charms. At an elevation of about 5,000 feet the trail turns to the north crossing a rock slide on a comparatively level grade. This gives a short breathing space and again the trail turns up and continues to climb rapidly until the summit is reached. Here our arrival is announced by a sharp



whistle. The rocks on the summit form the home of a family of marmots commonly called "whistlers," after which the mountain has been named.

The summit has a large flat top, and in order to see the whole view it is necessary to move from point to point. The first view which claims attention is down Athabaska river, the whole valley of which lies open for a distance of eight miles below the mouth of Miette river (View page 14). In the foreground lies Jasper, its buildings and roads plainly visible. The railways wind along the west side of the river, pass through Jasper and side by side, turn up Miette river; finally the Canadian Northern crosses the Miette valley on a long trestle almost below us. The wide benches above Jasper are dotted with lakes, chief among which are Pyramid and Patricia. The road to these may be seen climbing the hill behind Jasper and winding across the bench. Nearer are Cabin lake, Caledonia lake and many others. On the flat behind Pyramid lake stands Pyramid mountain, its rocky summit rising about three thousand feet above the timber at its base, and west from it extends the low range which forms the divide between Miette and Snaring rivers. In the distance to the right of Pyramid may be seen Roche De Smet, easily distinguished by its central peak which rises from the middle of a long serrated ridge. Still farther to the right, in clear weather, mount Aeolus may be seen, a sharp point at the west end and a long shoulder extending to the south. This is the highest peak in the vicinity of Pocahontas.

East of the Athabaska river the road to the Maligne gorge is plainly visible from the time it leaves Jasper until it reaches the shores of Edith lake. Beyond lies Colin range, its grey limestone peaks rising high above timbered slopes. Conspicuous among these, is the dark face of Roche Bonhomme solemnly gazing skyward, and Colin mountain the highest peak near the north end of the range. Just to the left of Colin mountain stands one of the peaks of Roche Jacques, a square black rock.

To the east and across Athabaska river, lies mount Tekarra, the northerly peak of the Maligne range, while beyond and to the right stands the summit of Watch-tower. Below lie a series of rolling brulé-covered benches, with scattered meadows, lakes and clumps of fir, while far to the southeast Athabaska river may be seen



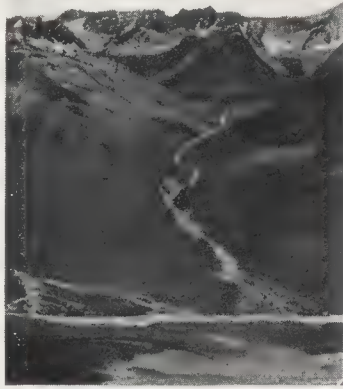
A Rest on the Way to the Whistlers

Railways, trains, houses and men seen from these great heights look like a world in miniature. Only the mountains retain their gigantic proportions

winding through the dark valley below mount Hardisty. About four miles away, Portal creek and Astoria river enter from the west, their numerous channels and wide gravel bars showing white on the flats below.

To the south, the dominating feature of the landscape is mount Edith Cavell, its massive top frequently clothed in clouds. Farther to the right, almost due south, above a high pass (Marmot pass) leading from the head of Whistlers creek into the valley of Portal creek, stands the sharp snow-tipped apex of the Throne, Blackhorn nearly equal in height beside it. Still farther around, the summit of Oldhorn may be seen, easily distinguished by its sharp, pinnacle-shaped top and its precipitous walls.

**MOUNT EDITH CAVELL.** Almost due south of Jasper and Cavell, named in honour of the heroic nurse who was murdered by the Germans in the fall of 1915.



Portal Valley from Mt. Tekarra (29)

Portal peak appears in the centre of the valley. On the right is the Circus and on the left the Portal. The mouth of Astoria river is in the left foreground

about fourteen miles distant in a straight line, a massive snow-crowned mountain rises high above the surrounding peaks, its white summit sometimes glistening in the sunlight, but often lost among the clouds. Below, some hanging glaciers showing white against its dark precipitous rocks, discharge their masses of snow and ice into a large glacier just visible in the valley beneath.

This is mount Edith

Glacier of the Ghost



Mt. Edith Cavell and Astoria Valley

Looking southwest from (2). Astoria valley on the right, Mt. Fraser at the head of the valley and Oldhorn on the right of Mt. Fraser. Cavell lake in foreground. The shape and shadings of the glacier of the Ghost present the appearance of a flying figure with outstretched wings as outlined in the upper right hand corner, but most of it has been lost in the reproduction

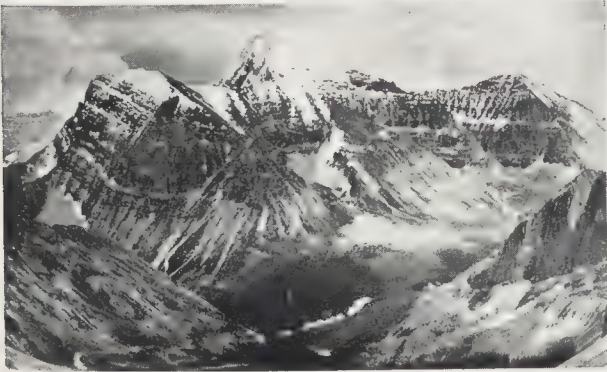
In the cirque between the mountain and the shoulder extending to the north, there is a hanging glacier about one-third of a square mile in area. This glacier drains into a larger one about five hundred feet below by a narrow fan-shaped ice-fall not more than three hundred feet wide at the top. The lower glacier is of irregular shape extending along the foot of the cliffs for more than a mile, and its greatest width is a little over half a mile. The whole forms the glacier of the Ghost. A well defined medial moraine marks the junction of the two parts of the icefield. A short distance below the snout of the glacier, nestling in the green timber, lies a small lake about one thousand yards long and three hundred yards wide, which has been named Cavell lake, while the stream flowing from it to Astoria river has been called Cavell creek.



Mt. Edith Cavell from Chak Peak (5)

Note the hidden knight

It is doubtful if the mountain can be climbed from this side, but from a camp at the lake, the glaciers and the valley above could be examined. The same camp would make a convenient base from which to explore the long ridge extending eastward toward the Athabaska valley. From points on this ridge, only 1,500 to 2,000 feet above the lake, splendid views may be obtained of Athabaska river looking either up or down, of the lower part of the Whirlpool or of the valley of Astoria river. Opposite the mouth of Astoria river on the east side of the Athabaska is seen the prairie de la Vache, of which Ross Cox says:—



Mt. Edith Cavell from Mt. Maccarib (10)

In front of the mountain is Verdant Valley

From the junction of the two rivers to the old fort, the country on each side presents a pleasing variety of prairies, open woods and gently rising eminencies; and one spot in particular, called la prairie de la Vache (in consequence of buffalo

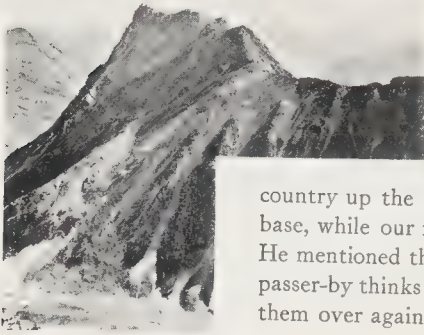
having formerly been killed in it) forms a landscape that for rural beauty cannot be excelled in any country.

Of the mountains visible from the ridge, the most imposing are Mt. Edith Cavell and those to the south, along the west side of the Athabaska. On the opposite



side, in a bend of the river, lies Mt. Kerkeslin, and farther north, Mt. Hardisty and the Maligne range.

As might be expected a mountain so prominent as Mt. Edith Cavell could not fail to attract the attention of mountaineers. Thus Principal Grant writes:—



Portal Peak

Looking northeast from (7) in the direction of Portal valley. Circus valley in foreground. Athabaska valley beyond

At the end of lake Jasper, a strath from two to five miles wide, which may still be called the Jasper valley, bends to the south. Our first look up this valley showed new lines of mountains on both sides, closed at the head by a great mountain so white with snow that it looked like a sheet suspended from the heavens. That, Valad said, was "La montagne de la grande traverse," adding that the road to the Columbia

country up the formidable Athabaska pass, lay along its south-eastern base, while our road would turn west up the valley of the river Myette. He mentioned the old local titles of the mountains on this side, but every passer-by thinks that he has a right to give his own and his friends' names to them over again.

The mountain of the Great Crossing was one of the guide-posts of the early travellers; it marked the place where the Athabaska had to be forded and the continental divide crossed. Sir James Hector named it mount Le Duc, and in 1911, A. O. Wheeler named it mount Fitzhugh.

Locally, it was known as mount Geikie, which was a mistake, the real mount Geikie being some twelve miles farther west. In 1913, shortly after

the construction of the railway, an attempt to reach the summit was made by A. L. Mumm and G. E. Howard, both members of the English Alpine Club, but owing to unfavourable weather the attempt failed, although Mr. Mumm, accompanied by his guide, ascended to within four hundred feet of the top. In 1915 another and a successful attempt was made by Professor E. W. D. Holway and Dr. A. J. Gilmore. The ascent was made by the west arête from a camp on the wide grassy pass south of the mountain, between Astoria river and Whirlpool river.



Circus Valley

Looking northwest from (8). Glaciers and waterfalls on all sides

Vertex Pk.

Mt. Majestic

Mt. Estella

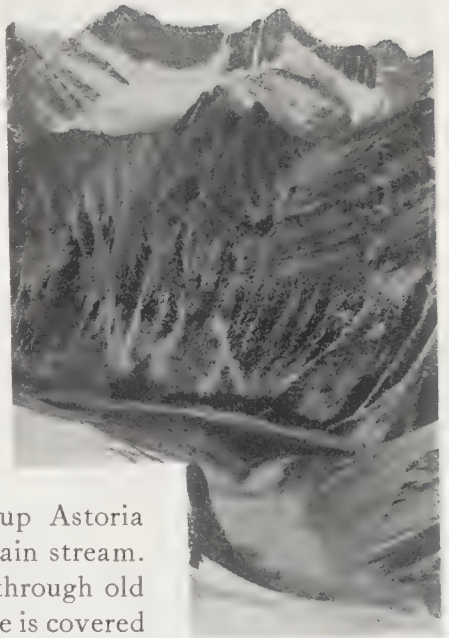


Head of Circus Valley

Looking west from (8)

Professor Holway says no great difficulty was encountered, though there was much step-cutting part of the way up very steep slopes.

A good trail has been built from Jasper to Cavell lake, a distance of about fifteen miles. This trail follows the wagon road across the Miette river and then turns south along the base of the Whistlers. Passing along the flats on the west side of Athabaska river, it crosses Whistlers creek, Portal creek and Astoria river, and then turns up the last, gradually ascending along the side of the low ridge on the south until the lake is reached. Soon after turning up Astoria river, the trail passes close to a gorge on the main stream. Most of the way the trail is along open flats or through old brûlé but for the last two miles the mountain side is covered with green timber. In addition to the trail, a good road is being constructed to this point.

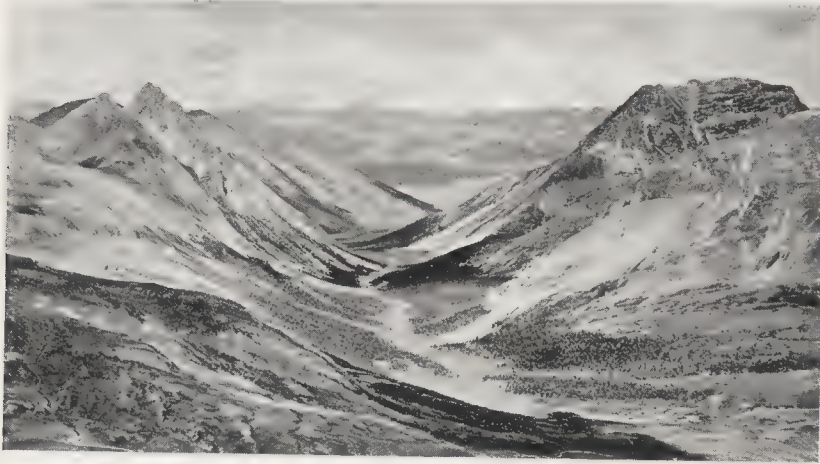
The Portal from  
Mt. Aquila

Looking northwest across the Portal from Mr. Aquila (4). Compare with next view looking in the direction of the Portal

TONQUIN VALLEY AND AMETHYST LAKES. The trail leading to Tonquin valley and Amethyst lakes is an old Indian hunting trail and like all such trails, has not been spoiled by too much work. Leaving the trail up the west



side of Athabaska river about four miles from Jasper, it cuts across the flat and crosses Whistlers creek just at the base of the mountains. A steep climb of over one thousand feet follows and then it passes along a steep side hill covered with old brulé. Soon it enters green timber and winds through mud, over rocks and



The Portal from Mt. Maccarib (9)

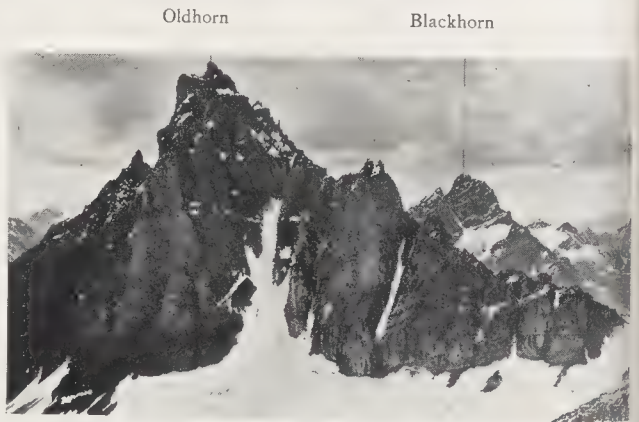
Lectern peak on the right. Portal peak on the left. The Athabaska valley in the distance  
Compare with preceding view across the Portal

along stone hills to the head of the valley.

Under favourable circumstances the head of the valley may be reached from Jasper in about six hours, provided the horses are lightly packed. Horse feed is

abundant and good camp grounds are numerous. Several mountains are within easy distance and the valley itself offers attractions to the explorer.

The Whistlers and Indian ridge lie to the north and either one may be reached easily in two hours. Behind Whistlers and Indian passes, about 8,000 feet elevation lead into a branch of Meadow creek, but whether they are suitable for horses is not known. To the southwest at the head of the valley stands Manx peak with its jagged ridges, glaciers and rock slides. Two or three small lakes lie below the glaciers, and the rocks still lower down serve as the home of many marmots whose shrill calls of alarm echo through the valley. To the south



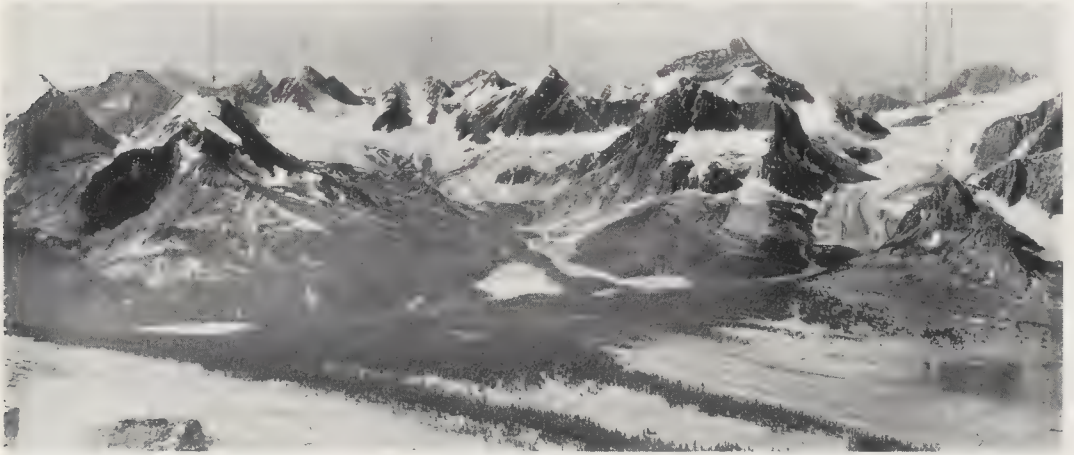
Oldhorn Mountain and Blackhorn Peak from Mt. Maccarib (9)

Marmot mountain, a large flat topped mountain, may be reached easily in two hours. This mountain gives an excellent view of the Athabaska valley, of Port creek and the head of Whistlers valley.



From the head of Whistlers creek the trail winds up open grassy slopes to the Marmot pass, behind Marmot mountain, leading to Portal creek. This pass is about 7,500 feet high. From here the trail descends almost directly down to Portal

Angle Pk.                      Mt. Erebus                      Surprise Pt.  
Thunderbolt Pk.           Alcove Mt. Eremite Mt.   Outpost Pk.           Fraser Glacier



South End of Tonquin Valley from Mt. Clitheroe (11)

Penstock creek and Chrome lake below Eremite mountain. Tonquin valley in foreground. Amethyst lakes on the right creek, a drop of about 1,500 feet, the lower slopes being covered with fallen timber. Just above where the trail crosses the creek, the branch from Circus valley joins, flowing out through a large rock slide.

Fraser Glacier                      Mt. Fraser                      Dungeon Pk.           Redoubt Pk.

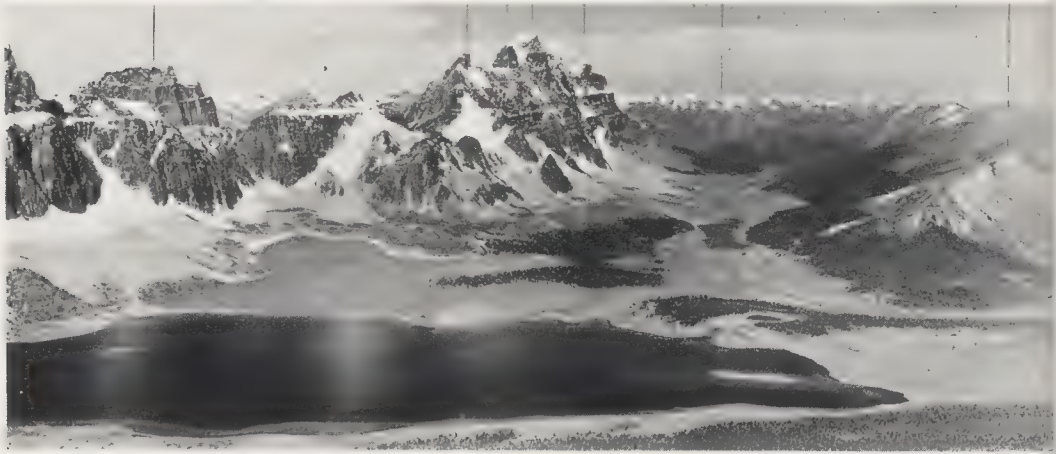


The Ramparts and Amethyst Lakes from Mt. Clitheroe (11)

Circus valley has not yet been explored. It appears to be a rather rocky, barren valley with three large glaciers at its head. On the north side are three high peaks, the lowest, Manx peak, being 9,987 feet elevation.

About a mile and a half above the forks, there is a small meadow where feed for horses can be obtained. From a camp at this point, Lectern peak and the three other peaks of the range to the east, all over 9,000 feet would be accessible.

Mt. Geikie  
Turret Mt.      Moat Lake and  
Postern Mt.      Bastion Pk. Barbican Pk. Tonquin Pass      Tonquin Hill

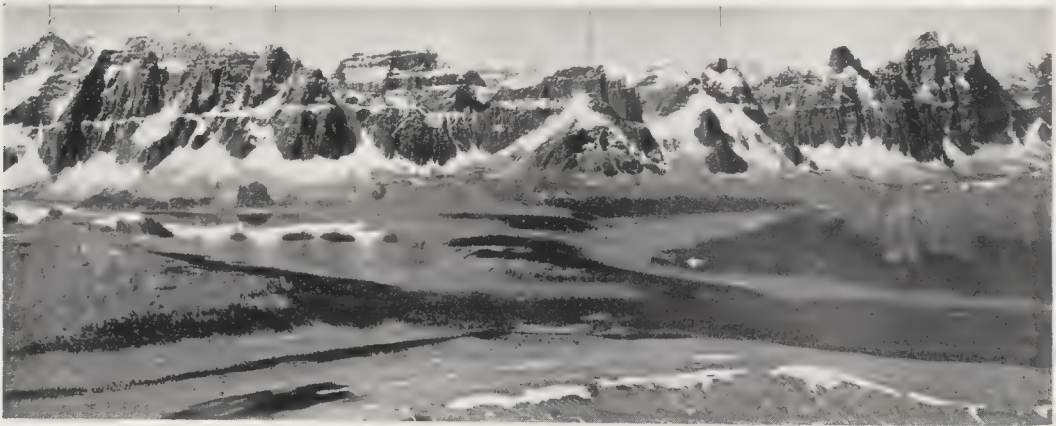


The Ramparts and Tonquin Pass from Mt. Clitheroe (11)

Amethyst lakes in foreground. The continental divide crosses the pass a few hundred feet beyond Moat lake

Two small lateral valleys could also be explored. On the west side of the valley, Portal peak, directly above the camp has not yet been climbed.

Redoubt Pk.  
Mt. Fraser    Dungeon Pk.      Casemate Mt.      Postern Mt.    Bastion Pk.    Turret Mt.    Mt. Geikie



The Ramparts from Mt. Majestic (16)

Tonquin valley in foreground. Amethyst lakes on the left. Tonquin pass on the right

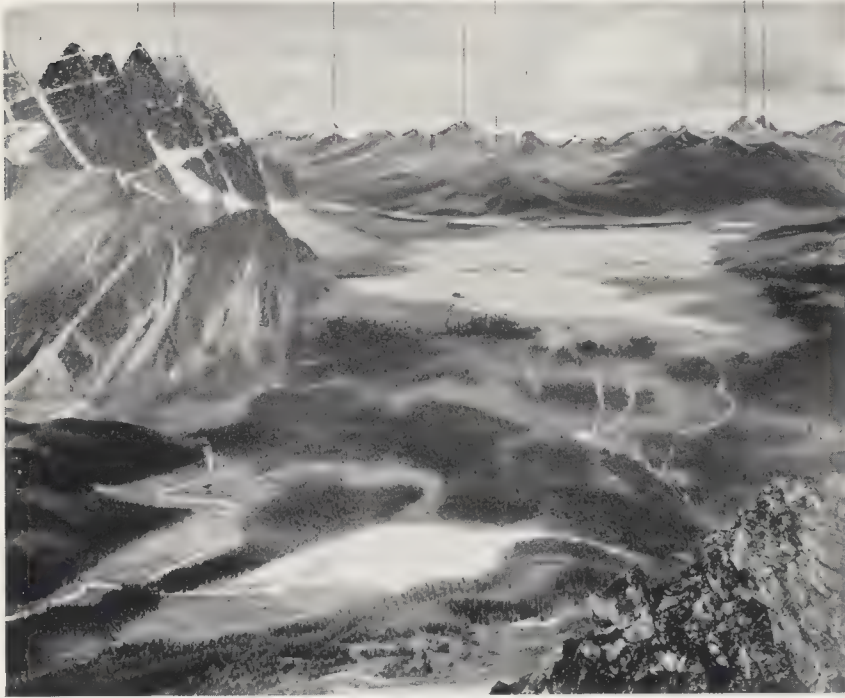
Three miles above the forks, the valley widens out and timber line is reached. From a camp here several peaks may be reached. Mount Maccarib, less than two thousand feet above the camp, is a very easy climb and affords an excellent view



Redoubt Pk.  
Dungeon Pk.

Tonquin Hill  
Vista Pk. Mt. Fitzwilliam Mt. Clairvaux

Mt. Basilica  
Mt. Curia



Tonquin Valley from Thunderbolt Peak (13)

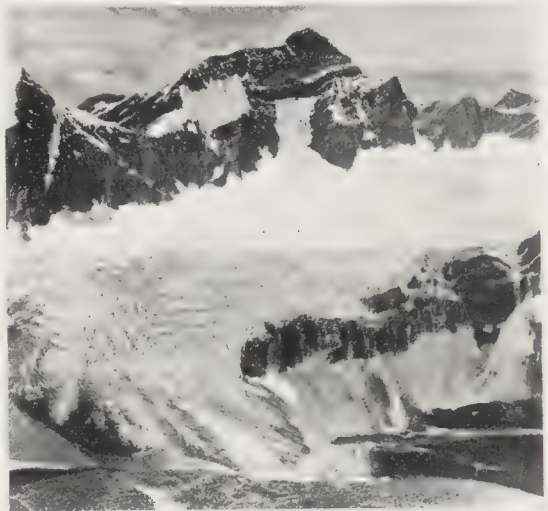
The Ramparts on the left. Amethyst lakes in middle distance. Chrome lake and Eremitic creek in foreground. The crooked stream from Fraser glacier is Penstock creek; it plunges underground just before joining Eremitic creek

of the heads of the adjacent valleys. The higher point to the west overlooks Amethyst lakes and the head of Astoria river with its many glaciers and lofty snow-clad peaks. To the east mount Edith Cavell towers above all surrounding peaks, while close by rise the precipitous walls of Oldhorn moun-

tain. To the west are mount Geikie and the Ramparts towering dark and forbidding above open valleys below.

Several other peaks may be reached from here chief among which are Oldhorn mountain, Chak peak and mount Majestic. Of these Oldhorn apparently offers the most inducement for the mountaineer, while Majestic offers a splendid view of the surrounding country.

Continuing the journey, two passes are now open, the one to the south, Astoria pass, leading into the valley of Astoria river, above mount Edith Cavell, and another to the west, Maccarib pass, leading into the valley



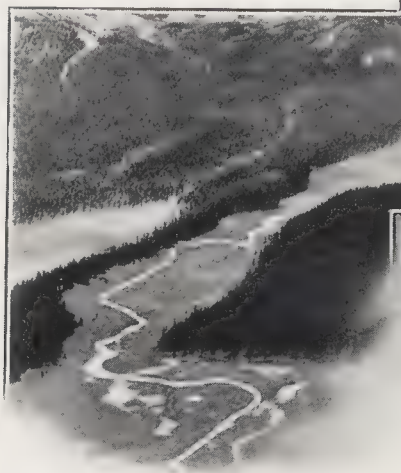
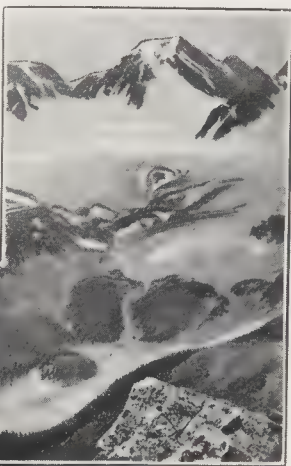
Mt. Erebus and Eremitic Glacier  
From Thunderbolt Peak (13)

Eremitic creek in foreground



of Maccarib creek, a branch of Meadow creek. Horses may be taken over the former pass and up the valley to its head, but this involves a descent to Astoria river of over two thousand feet. This would, however, offer an approach to mount Edith Cavell and an opportunity to explore the valleys above it.

Maccarib pass to the west is about 7,100 feet above sea-level and leads into Maccarib valley, which is open at the bottom with scattered timber along both sides. Three miles beyond



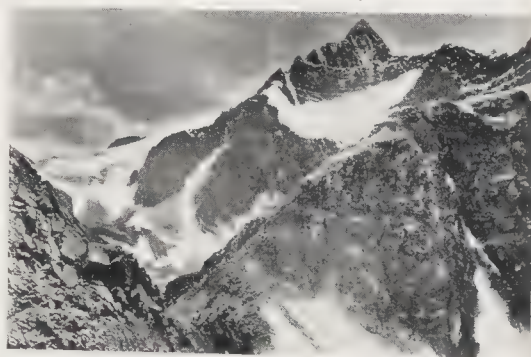
A Glacial Stream

Eremite creek from Surprise point (14). Note the great ice cavern from which it emerges Penstock creek the tributary in foreground which comes from Fraser glacier disappears underground before joining Eremite creek

Tonquin valley is one of the beauty spots of the region. Situated in the heart of the mountains about five hundred feet below timber line, the wide meadows along its streams and the stretches of dark green spruce and balsam form an ideal park. Above the timber there are more open meadows or gentle grassy slopes, and still higher, the rocky summits of the mountains rise in all their grandeur. Along the south, rising abruptly four thousand feet above the valley, its base guarded by white glaciers

the pass the west shoulder of Mt. Clitheroe is reached and here a good camp ground may be found in the timber on the south side of the creek. This point, which is at the entrance to Tonquin valley, is the point to which distances have been given in the table at the end and has been selected because it lies on the direct route, if the return trip be made by way of Meadow creek.

It is, however, a very convenient point from which to ascend mount Clitheroe or mount Majestic. It is, moreover, only half a mile from the north end of Amethyst lakes and four miles from the south end, three miles from Tonquin pass beyond Moat lake, or six miles from the head of the valley below Vista peak.



Mt. Fraser from Surprise Point (14)

Fraser glacier on the left. The source of the Fraser river is somewhere back of this mountain

and dark rock-slides, stands the huge wall of the Ramparts which forms the continental divide. Mount Geikie, the highest and most impressive peak of this range, named after Sir Archibald Geikie, the veteran geologist, is just within British Columbia territory, and close to the head of Fraser river.

Near the south end of Tonquin valley, 6,450 feet above sea-level and draining into Astoria river, there is a beautiful sheet of water about three miles long and a mile across in the widest places. This is divided into two parts by a rocky peninsula jutting out from the north side, and the two bodies of water thus formed are known as Amethyst lakes. Along the east side, the shore consists of swampy meadows,

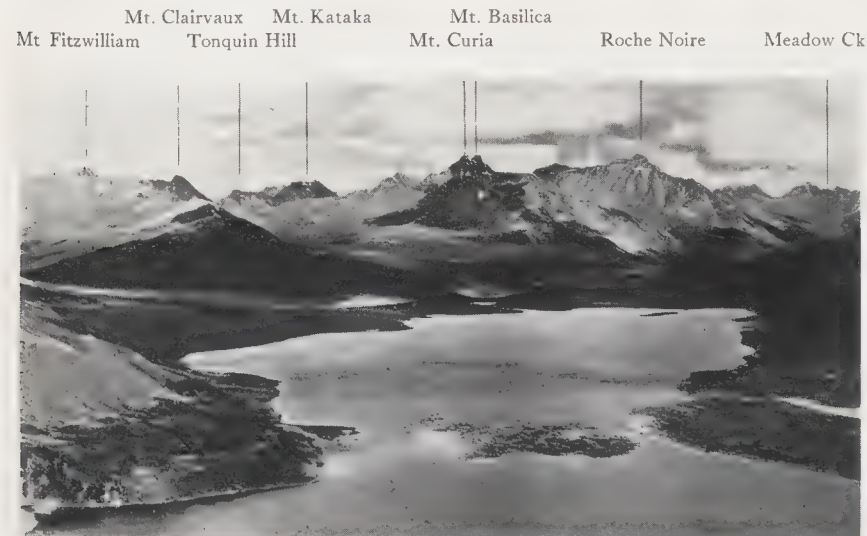


Dungeon Peak from Surprise Point (14)  
Amethyst lakes at the foot

with a strip of green forest on the gentle slopes above. Still higher, between the timber and the mountains, wide grassy meadows form a favourite haunt of the caribou. Along the south and west, the shore is formed by rock-slides and steep moraines pushed down by the glaciers clinging to the rocky cliffs of the massive Ramparts above the lake. The lakes, reflecting in their placid waters the over-

shadowing range with its varied snow-clad outlines and dark rugged cliffs, form a picture that is seldom equalled.

An ideal camp ground may be found at the south end of these lakes. This seems the most favourable point



Amethyst Lakes and the Tonquin Valley from Surprise Point (14)  
Tonquin pass in front of Tonquin hill on the left

from which to attempt the ascent of Oldhorn, whose jagged summit is only three miles distant. It is also conveniently situated with regard to some of the



Redoubt Pk.

Mt. Fraser

Casemate Mt.

Bastion Pk.



The Ramparts and Moat Lake from Tonquin Hill (15)

The continental divide passes through the top of Bastion peak and crosses the pass a few hundred feet to the right of the head of Moat lake. The lake, the whole of which is in the view, is about a mile long



Turret Mountain and Mt. Geikie from Tonquin Hill (15)

The extreme top of Geikie is hidden by clouds; it is 4,300 feet above the floor of Tonquin pass at its foot



higher peaks lying to the west. If arrangements could be made to move from the head of Portal creek to this camp in one day, it would be an easy and interesting trip for some members of the party, to ascend Maccarib and descend to the lakes, which are on the opposite side of the ridge.

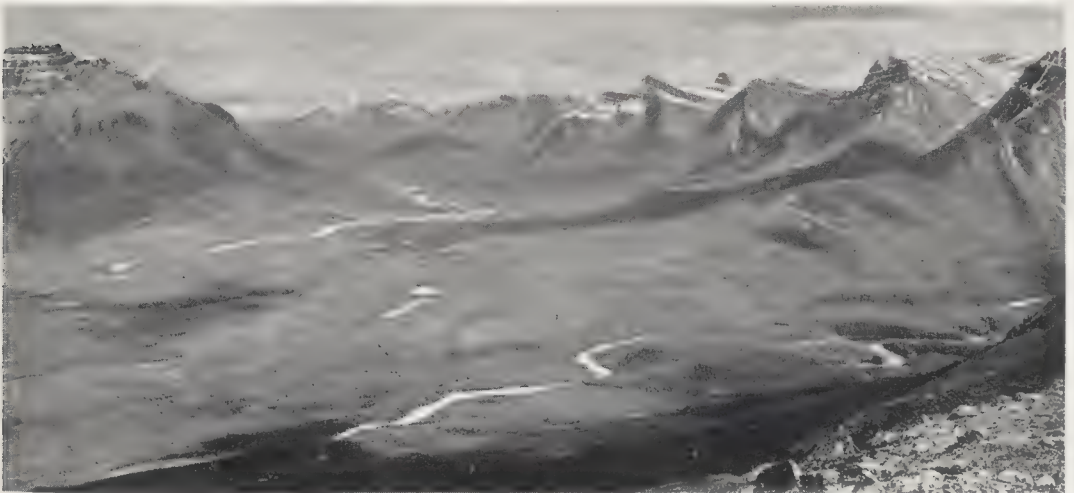
About a mile and half from the south end of Amethyst lakes and five hundred feet lower, in the main valley of Astoria river, lies Chrome lake; near the junction of the streams from the Fraser and Eremite glaciers at the head of the valley, the stream from the Fraser glacier, Penstock creek, plunges underground just before joining the other one, Eremite creek. There are fine meadows



Barbican Peak and the Tonquin Pass  
from Tonquin Hill (15)

and a beautiful camp ground here, offering a splendid centre for the exploration of the valleys and glaciers above. Although not the highest mountain, mount Erebus (10,234 feet) is one of the most conspicuous, standing alone, its black rock walls rising perpendicularly from the glacier below.

From the shoulder of mount Clitheroe, the return trip may be made by way of Meadow creek. Although there is no trail, horses have been taken down this



The Upper Valley of the Athabaska

Looking south from (1). Mt. Kerkeslin on the left. Whirlpool river in foreground. Entrance to Athabaska pass on the right valley to the railway. For some distance the bottom is open, but about nine miles down, or about four miles from the railway, it narrows and is apparently more heavily timbered. About six miles below mount Clitheroe, the stream passes

below the Forum, and between Roche Noire and mount Arris. Both of these mountains may be climbed without difficulty and splendid views may be obtained from either. Mount Arris overlooks the unexplored Crescent valley with its snow-clad peaks, its snow-fields and glaciers, while the higher summit of Roche Noire gives a more extensive view of the surrounding mountains. Two miles beyond, the mouth of Crescent creek is passed and about thirteen miles from mount Clitheroe, Meadow creek joins the main valley of Miette river, eight miles above Jasper. From here the old construction road is followed to the town.

**ATHABASKA FALLS.** These falls are on Athabaska river about twenty miles above Jasper. They may be reached in one day by a good trail along the east side of the river. They are described by Mr. Stanley Washburn, the war correspondent, in his book "Trails, Trappers and Tenderfeet," as follows:—

The river, peaceful and quiet as some great inland waterway, comes flowing around a curve at a width well on to 200 yards, and then suddenly the banks close in and the whole volume of water seems to leap suddenly forward over a ledge less than one-third that width, and fall into a chasm some 80 feet deep. The walls close in abruptly from both sides and the vast tumult of water goes surging through a gorge so narrow that a man could easily leap across from wall to wall. Far down in the depths is the white froth and resonant roaring of this vast stream, which is congested into such meagre space that it seems as though the walls of stone could not withstand the fury with which it lashes at the rocky barriers that enclose it. A hundred feet above it, the noise and thunder created down in the depths are so great that only by shouting can one make his voice heard a foot away.



The Athabaska Gorge



Anemones



Elk

## CHAPTER IV

### TRIPS WEST FROM JASPER

Cabin lake . . . Caledonia lake . . . Dorothy lake . . . Pyramid and Patricia lakes . . . Snaring river valley . . . Yellowhead pass

**CABIN LAKE.** This is a small lake, about seventy-five acres in area, two miles west of Jasper, on the bench five hundred feet above the town. A dam has been constructed at the outlet and the lake forms a reservoir from which the water supply for the town is obtained. Mina lake and several smaller ones lie close to it. A good trail has been constructed leading to it.

**CALEDONIA LAKE.** Caledonia lake is a small lake lying on a rocky bench above Miette river about three and one-half miles west of Jasper. It is well stocked with fish. It may be reached by following the wagon road up Miette river to near the point where the Canadian Northern railway crosses. From here a trail to the right crosses both railways and follows up the left bank of a small stream.

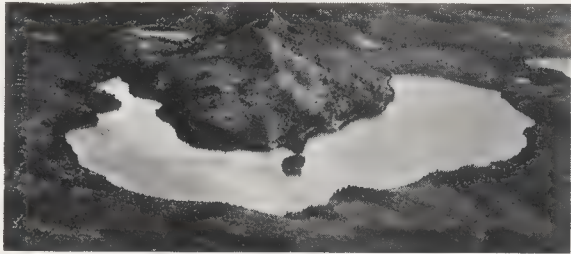
**DOROTHY LAKE.** Dorothy lake is the largest of a group of small lakes on the rocky benches above Miette river. It is about six miles west of Jasper. Among other lakes close by are Iris lake, Virl lake, and Christine lake. It may be reached by means of a trail branching from the Miette wagon road, a short distance below the mouth of Meadow creek.

**PYRAMID AND PATRICIA LAKES.** These are two of the most beautiful lakes near Jasper and lie close to the foot of Pyramid mountain, on the benches above the town. Pyramid lake is crescent-shaped with a beautiful wooded islet near the centre of the curve. Its area is about three hundred acres. Lake Patricia, less than



half the size of Pyramid, is long and narrow with an average width of nine hundred feet and has no visible outlet or inlet. One hundred and fifty villa lots have been laid out along the shores of these lakes.

A good driveway has been constructed from the town to Pyramid lake. Starting behind the town, this road climbs along the hillside to the top of the bench, one hundred and thirty feet above, on a two and one-half per cent grade. During the ascent a splendid view is obtained of Athabaska river and the lakes beyond. From here the



Pyramid Lake from the top of Pyramid Mountain (56)  
It looks like a map. The small lake beyond is Katrine lake

road crosses the bench and traverses the north end of lake Patricia for over a thousand feet. A quarter of a mile beyond, the south end of Pyramid lake is reached and the road then winds

along the east shore for about a mile. The total length of this road is about four miles.

**PYRAMID MOUNTAIN.** Six miles northeast of Jasper stands Pyramid mountain, 9,076 feet above sea-level, its dark rugged cliffs stained with red, and on its north

Morro Pk.                      Mt. Edith Cavell                      Pyramid Mt.



The Valley of the Athabaska from Mt. Greenock (63)  
The Palisade below Pyramid mountain.    Snaring river in front of it

face a small glacier. To the traveller approaching Jasper from the north by railway, this is one of the most prominent peaks, its summit white with snow the greater part of the year, rising high above the rocky rampart lying between it and Snaring

river. The mountain is well named as from almost every point of view its summit preserves a well defined pyramidal shape.

The view from the top is most impressive. To the north, lies the Athabaska valley and Jasper lake, while above the lake to the right, clear cut against the dark background, stands Roche Miette; to the east side the Colin range, with its sharp limestone peaks, and the Maligne valley, Medicine lake just visible in the distance; to the south the Maligne range and below it Athabaska river, flowing like a silver thread from its dark valley near the head. Close below lies Pyramid lake, lake Patricia and many others, and over the centre of lake Patricia, the town of Jasper. West



Monarch Mountain from Mt. Elysium (51)

of the Athabaska, between it and the Yellowhead pass, stretches an imposing array of mountains, among which the following are conspicuous: Edith Cavell, the Throne, the Ramparts, Geikie, Roche Noire and Fitzwilliam, the last named lying just south of Yellowhead pass. Beyond, to the west and northwest, a boundless sea of peaks stretches as far as the eye can reach.

Pyramid mountain may be ascended in one day from Jasper or from a camp at Pyramid lake. The climb is rather long and arduous on account of the fallen timber on the flats at its base. After timber line has been reached, the remainder of the climb is easier and more interesting.



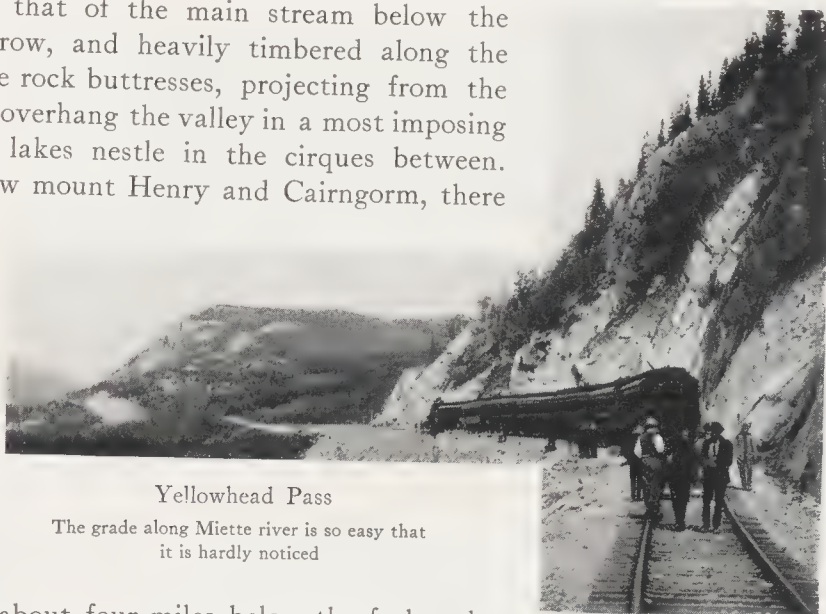
South Branch of Snaring River  
From a Spur of Mt. Chetamon (61)

**SNARING RIVER VALLEY.** A region of unusual attractiveness and of which little is yet known, is that lying at the head of the south fork of Snaring river, named according to Sir James Hector:

after a tribe of Indians that at one time lived here, dwelling in holes dug in the ground, and subsisting on animals which they captured with snares of green hide, in which manner they used to kill the big-horn, small deer, and even moose.

Here open grassy summits and wide meadows lie just above timber line and give easy access to several fine snow-capped mountains which rise to an elevation of about 9,500 feet above sea-level. The valley of this branch, and also that of the main stream below the forks, is very narrow, and heavily timbered along the lower slopes. Huge rock buttresses, projecting from the mountains above, overhang the valley in a most imposing manner and small lakes nestle in the cirques between. In the basins below mount Henry and Cairngorm, there are several small

lakes. Both these basins drain to the south fork through narrow gaps between rugged mountains. About three miles from the mouth of



Yellowhead Pass

The grade along Miette river is so easy that it is hardly noticed

Snaring river and about four miles below the forks, the stream draining the basin behind Pyramid mountain enters through a narrow canyon.

Access to this valley from the south would be rather difficult owing to the rolling brûlé-covered benches lying between it and the Miette. Just below Emigrants mountain there is a pass about 6,700 feet high leading over a grassy summit into the open country just mentioned. The trip from Jasper through this pass and down Snaring river would be one of unusual interest, but what difficulties might be encountered is not yet known.

**YELLOWHEAD PASS.** Dr. Cheadle says that the Yellowhead pass derives its name from being the spot chosen by an Iroquois trapper, known by the sobriquet of the Tête jaune or "Yellow head," to hide the furs he obtained on the western side.

The trip up the Miette valley to the pass is not very interesting unless taken with some other object in view.

The valley for about eight miles above Jasper consists of a narrow flat, swampy in places and hemmed in by steep rock cliffs. For about four miles both railways are on the north side of the valley, then the Canadian Northern crosses to the south on a high trestle, and about four miles farther on the Grand Trunk Pacific crosses where the river is only a few feet below the railway. The roads then run side by side for about three miles when the Grand Trunk Pacific re-crosses the valley.

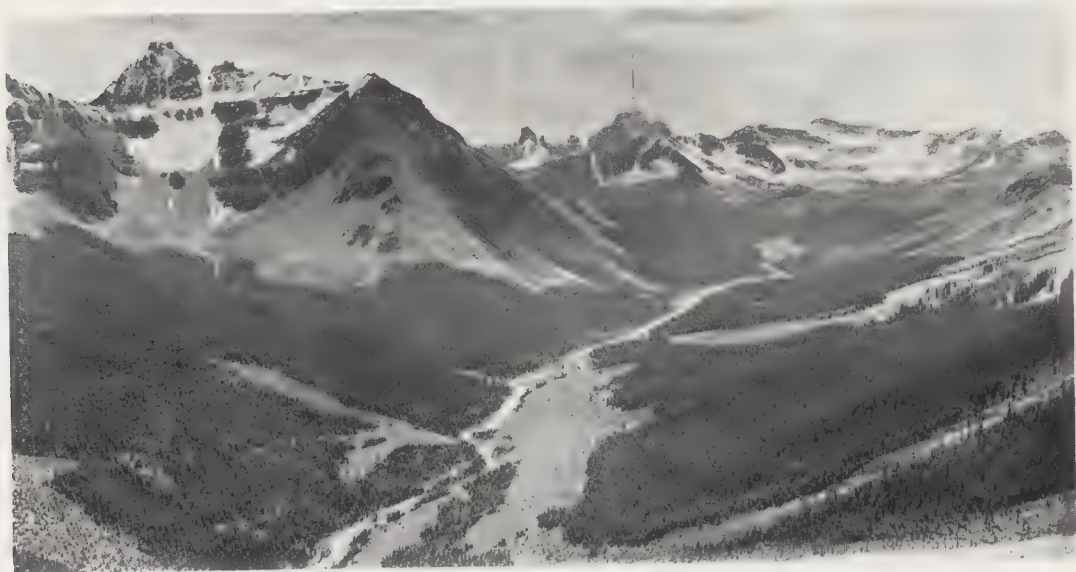


The trail follows the old construction road, now rather out of repair as a wagon road, but still a good trail for horses. Just above where the Grand Trunk Pacific crosses the Miette for the first time and about half a mile from Geikie station, the road crosses the railway and climbs high up to the rocky bluffs along the north,

Mt. Basilica

Turret Mt. Mt. Geikie

Vista Pk.



Clairvaux Valley from Mt. Kataka (19)

to avoid the swamps in the bottom of the valley. Along this part of the trail many of the mountains to the south may be seen and Yellowhead mountain, just above the pass, is continually in view.

A short distance above Geikie station a glimpse may be obtained of Vista peak and the large glaciers at the head of Clairvaux valley. Although the timber in the lower part of the valley has been destroyed by fire, the upper part remains unmarred and its beautiful meadows and dark forests form a delightful contrast to the rugged mountains surrounding it. The stream enters Miette river through a deep gorge about two miles west of Geikie station.

At Derr creek, about six miles from the railroad crossing, the road descends to a large flat known as Dominion prairie. Many years ago a small mining boom was started here by an energetic prospector, but like many other booms, it is now a thing of the past. Beyond here the trail again takes to the hillside for about three miles, when it crosses the Miette and passes over the divide into British Columbia. During the last three miles, the most prominent peaks seen are Yellowhead mountain on the north side of the pass and the sharp pyramid shaped summit of mount Fitzwilliam on the south. The Iroquois half-breed who was with Lord Milton and

Dr. Cheadle when they crossed the pass, assured them that these two mountains should be known from that time forth as *Le Montagne de Milord* and *Montagne de Docteur*, but Milton and Cheadle "took the liberty of naming them mount Fitzwilliam and mount Bingley." Fitzwilliam was Milton's family name, and the mountain is still known under that name, but *Montagne de Docteur* and mount Bingley have both passed into oblivion, the summit being now known as Yellowhead mountain.



White Dryas



Young Pigeon Hawks

## CHAPTER V

### TRIPS NORTH FROM JASPER

Maligne gorge . . . Maligne range . . . Medicine lake . . . Maligne lake . . . Jacques lake  
Jasper to Pochontas . . . Snake Indian river and falls

**M**ALIGNE GORGE. About four miles to the northeast of Jasper there is one of the finest gorges to be found in the Rocky mountains. It is on the Maligne river and may be reached by means of a splendid driveway about nine miles in length:

Leaving Jasper the road crosses the railways and winding down a hill past the northern of the Twin lakes, crosses Athabaska river at a distance of about one mile from the town. The river at this point consists of three channels with a bridge over each. The main channel is to the east and, in low water, the other two are dry.

About one mile farther on, the road suddenly reaches the shore of lake Beauvert. From this point there is a splendid view of the Colin range and Roche Bonhomme, the latter being a mountain about six miles away, just beyond Maligne river. A "bonhomme" is the ill-drawn figure of a man such as scrawled by children in play and the top of this mountain forms a very well defined profile of a face looking skyward. This profile is all the more noticeable as it is formed of dark reddish coloured shale, in striking contrast to the grey limestone of which the rest of the range is composed. Colin range possibly commemorates Colin Fraser, postmaster at Jasper house from 1840 to 1846.

For nearly a mile the road now skirts the shore of this lake passing through poplar and jack pine with clumps of spruce and fir. This lake is entirely fed by springs as there is no surface inlet, although a large stream flows from it to Athabaska river. On the shore of the lake near the north end, an Edmonton company has placed a number of tents where accommodation is provided for tourists during the summer months. This is about three miles from Jasper station by road, though only about one mile in a straight line.



The road now passes by the east end of the southern of Trefoil lakes and then cuts across to the banks of Athabaska river which it follows for about a quarter of a mile. At this point the bank is steep, and about fifty feet above the river. It is



Lake Beauvert

The mountain on the extreme right is Roche Bonhomme. On the left is Hawk mountain and a little to the right the summit of Colin mountain

also open, affording a splendid view of part of the Athabaska valley and the neighbouring peaks. Then leaving the river bank the road descends slightly to the shore



On the Road to Maligne Gorge

Frequent stops are made to admire the landscape

Photo by Topley

of Annette lake, a beautiful sheet of water with shores open at the west end but heavily wooded at the east. At the extreme eastern end, farthest from the road, lies Ochre lake, a small triangular shaped lake cut off from the main lake by a very narrow dike. When visited, this lake was a light yellow colour forming a very marked contrast to the deep blue of the other.

A little farther on, we reach the sandy shore of Edith lake, a beautiful

blue green lake with two tiny islands near the opposite side. Soon the shores become more stony and the banks rise steeply about twenty feet above the water. At one point there has been a camp in a clump of trees overlooking the lake, a charming spot which no experienced camper can pass without a sigh of regret. Leaving this lake the road winds for some distance through open country, and then starts the long climb of 400 feet to the top of the gorge. This is partly through green timber and partly through *brulé*, and as the road winds and twists to avoid steep grades, ever varying views of the mountains are presented. Finally the gorge is reached and the road follows along the banks for a quarter of a mile to the crossing of the Maligne river. At this point a cabin has been built so that anyone desiring to do so may remain over night.

The Maligne gorge is one of the most important scenic attractions in the vicinity of Jasper. The mouth of the gorge is just above the Athabaska flats and about a mile from the mouth of the Maligne river. It is about half a mile in length and over one hundred and eighty feet in depth. It seems as though the walls, which in places are not more than ten feet apart at the top, have a tendency to close up but are held apart by some large boulders. Through the dark cavern below the water rushes with great velocity. The many huge pot-holes in the walls throughout their whole depth are striking examples of the wonderful erosive power of water. At the entrance to the gorge the stream enters by a cataract with a fall of about seventy-five feet. A foot-bridge has been built a short distance below so as to give a good view of the falls and of the bottom of the gorge.

It is remarkable that only a small portion of the water of Maligne river enters the gorge from above. The stream entering is very small except in high water and is said to become dry in winter. Large volumes of water appear to enter at different places especially below the gorge, so that on the flats the river, although flowing rapidly, is about one hundred feet wide. It is probable that the surface water entering the gorge is only the drainage from that part of the valley below Medicine lake, about nine miles higher up. Medicine lake, which has no surface outlet unless in extremely high water, receives all the drainage from Maligne lake and the valley beyond, and it seems likely that this is the water which after flowing underground for nine miles, emerges below the gorge.



Photo by Topley

#### The Maligne Gorge

The gorge is so narrow, deep and dark that only glimpses of the river flowing at the bottom are obtained

**MALIGNE RANGE.** The trip to the summit of Maligne range is one of the most popular trips from Jasper. The journey to the north end, Signal mountain, and return may be made in one day either on foot or on horseback. This is what is usually done, but if the traveller has more than one day to spare, further explorations along this ridge will prove very interesting.

From Jasper we follow the road to the Maligne gorge for about seven miles till we come to a trail leading to the right. The government telephone to the summit also turns off here. Following this trail, we cross some rough *brulé*-covered benches overgrown with small jack pine, and then ever climbing



Photo by Topley

#### Maligne River above the Gorge

Most of the water flows underground here. Below the gorge the river is a large one and the crossing was difficult, sometimes dangerous, for the early travellers and fur traders. Hence the name "Maligne"—wicked.

of the mountain. As we ascend higher, Athabaska valley with its many beautifully coloured lakes, gradually comes into view. Conspicuous among the lakes is lake Edith, its colour varying from a light green to a deep blue. Higher up, Pyramid and Patricia lakes may be seen nestling at the foot of Pyramid mountain.

About seven hundred feet below the summit of Signal mountain, in the last clump of timber, there is a splendid camp with good water and plenty of wood. From this point either mount Tekarra or Excelsior mountain may be climbed, the former in about three hours and the latter in about five.

From Signal mountain there is an unbroken view of the twenty-five mile stretch of Athabaska river with its many winding channels and lakes, while to the west the course of the Miette river may be traced from Yellowhead pass to its mouth. Both railways are plainly visible, winding up the Athabaska above Snaring river, passing through Jasper and disappearing toward the pass. To the southwest, Whistlers creek, Portal creek and Astoria river enter the Athabaska, their wide gravel bars and numerous channels showing white against the dark background. Just to the left of the mouth of Astoria river, stands mount Edith Cavell, the dominating feature of the landscape, while to the right fascinating glimpses are obtained of the lofty mountains and large snowfields near the divide.



Mount Tekarra lies about two and a half miles southeast of the camp ground below Signal mountain. The first part of the ascent is a walk along the summit of the ridge or along the easy slopes above timber line to the north, the latter avoiding



Photo by Topley

Maligne Chalet at  
the Gorge

A convenient starting  
place for excursions to  
the neighbourhood

the descent of a slight dip in the ridge, just before reaching the mountain. In a rocky amphitheatre at the base of the mountain, there is a small beautifully coloured lake. Immediately above a long shoulder extending toward Maligne valley, there is a small

couloir which offers an easy means of ascent when the snow is in good condition.

The view from mount Tekarra is very similar to that seen from Signal mountain, except that part of

Athabaska valley is hidden by the ridge to the northwest, but being nearly fifteen hundred feet higher, it gives a better view of the more distant peaks.

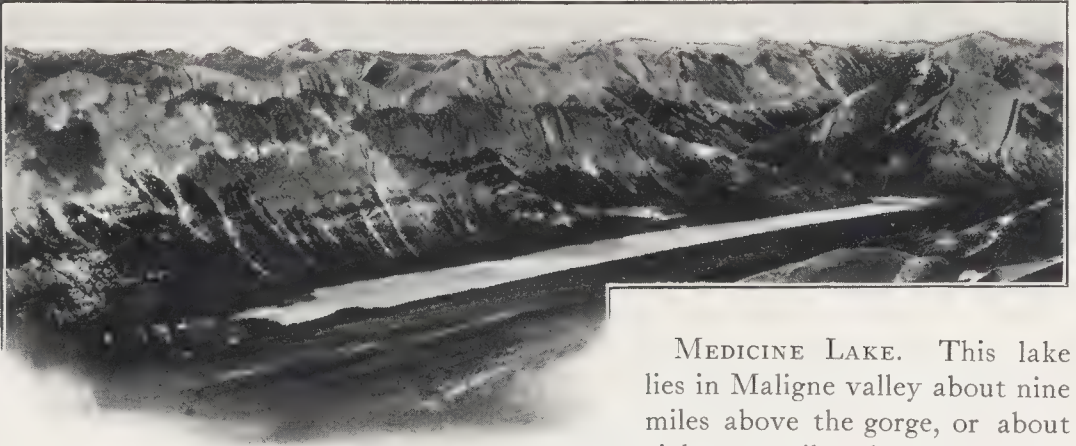
Should time permit, camp may be taken to the head of a pretty little valley east of mount Tekarra, about four miles beyond Signal mountain, where there are open meadows and good pasture. Although there is no trail, horses may easily be taken across by keeping on the benches above timber line. This may be done in one day from Jasper. From this camp the ascent of mount Tekarra may be made without difficulty in two hours, or that of Excelsior mountain in three hours.

The main part of the view from Excelsior mountain, not seen from Signal mountain, is the Maligne valley and the mountains to the southeast. To the east lies Medicine lake, a sheet of water four and a half miles long and half a mile wide. To the southeast stands the Watchtower, while beyond stretches an endless array of snow-clad peaks. A little to the right a huge double-pointed glacier-hung peak (probably one of those near Maligne lake) rises above the surrounding mountains. Below the Watchtower, above timber line, lies a valley with grassy flats hemmed in by low ridges, at the head of which there are some small glaciers and three small lakes. To the northeast is mount Tekarra, a small lake at its base.

Another trip on foot may be taken by following up the valley in which the camp is situated. First there is the small lake at the base of mount Tekarra, and higher up there are two others. At the head of the valley there is a pass leading into the valley below the Watchtower. From here it is possible to climb the Watchtower,

to explore the valley below, or to follow the ridge to the west, above the Athabaska, leading to Shovel pass about three miles beyond.

It is quite probable that some game will be seen during this trip. During the season of 1915, coyotes and caribou were seen below Signal mountain and sheep in the valley below mount Tekarra. Ptarmigan and grouse were also seen.



Medicine Lake from Excelsior Mountain (31)

The lake is four miles long and half a mile wide

**MEDICINE LAKE.** This lake lies in Maligne valley about nine miles above the gorge, or about eighteen miles by road from Jasper, and may be reached in one day from that point. The lake is about four miles long and

a little over half a mile wide. The water from the Maligne lake district drains into it but there is no surface outlet, the outflowing water apparently passing underground and emerging at some place below the Maligne gorge. There is a good trail up the valley and a wagon road is being constructed.

**MALIGNE LAKE.** Maligne lake, about forty miles southeast of Jasper, is said to be one of the most beautiful lakes in the Rocky mountains. It is about twenty miles long and is surrounded by high snow-clad mountains. It may be reached in two days either by way of the Maligne valley and Medicine lake or by the Shovel pass.

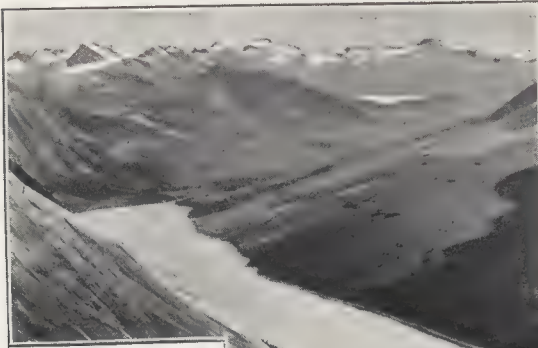
**JACQUES LAKE.** This is a small lake lying about fifteen miles southeast of Interlaken, a flag station on the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. It may be reached by an old trail leading up Jacques creek and across the heads of two intervening valleys. As there is no accommodation for tourists at this point, the trip is usually made from Jasper by way of the Maligne valley and Medicine lake, or from Poca-hontas by way of the Rocky river. This lake is exceptionally well stocked with fish.

**JASPER TO POCAHONTAS.** This trip affords interesting views of the Athabaska valley. The trail, while not by any means good, is passable for horses, except in very high water when some of the fords are rather dangerous. The trip can be made equally well from Poca-hontas and requires about two days. Leaving Jasper we follow the road to the Maligne gorge. For anyone who wishes to do so, this is a convenient point for the ascent of Roche Bonhomme, from whose summit a

magnificent view of Athabaska valley may be obtained. From here the trail winds through the open woods along the edge of the gorge and down steep rocky bluffs until the bottom of the valley is reached. Once in the river bottom, the trail stays

on the flats between the river and the rocky shoulders of the mountains, except where the latter extend to the edge of the river. Three miles from the Maligne gorge and again two miles farther on, the trail crosses small streams. These streams apparently come from deep

rocky gorges, both of which would probably repay investigation. At the mouth of the last one, Garonne creek, there



Medicine Lake  
looking Southeast  
from (37)

Maligne lake in the  
distance

are some deserted shacks formerly the home of John Moberly, an early settler who sold out to the Government to make way for the park. A camp at this point, which is probably the place known to early voyageurs as "campement de Cardinal,"

would be a very convenient base for the ascent of mount Hawk or Colin mountain.

About four miles beyond, the trail crosses two creeks, both dry, except in high water. The southerly one comes from a deep gorge between mount Hawk and an

outlying shoulder. It is improbable that there is any large gorge here but the valley is extremely narrow with steep cliffs on the north side. The second stream, Morro creek, comes through a narrow, precipitous valley between Morro peak and



The Garonne Gorge from Henry House (58)

Colin mountain in the background



mount Hawk forming a gorge which will no doubt be of great interest when explored.

A short distance farther on, the trail climbs over a shoulder of Morro peak, from which a glimpse of the huge rock buttresses up the Snaring river may be obtained



Roche Bonhomme from Henry House (58)

and then drops down to the railway a short distance below the bridge across the Athabaska river. A few yards beyond a small stream breaks out of a rocky shoulder above the railroad, the water being very cold and tasting strongly of sulphur. From here to Interlaken the trail follows the right of way, leaving the railroad only to ford streams or back channels of the river where the bridges are impassable for horses. At this point an old trail leads to Jacques lake, about fifteen miles to the southeast. It is used very little and is not widely known. It crosses the summit of Jacques creek and two other summits before reaching Jacques lake.

Leaving Interlaken the trail follows along a narrow sandy ridge between Jasper lake and Talbot lake, to near Hawes. Talbot lake is probably the lake of islands to which De Smet removed from Jasper house owing to insufficiency of provisions, for so large a body-guard as 54 persons and 20 dogs. The ridge, one hundred to four hundred yards in width, has been formed by the agency of the wind which has carried the fine sand from the shore of the lake and deposited it along the top of the ridge. At Hawes it is necessary to go some distance up Rocky river, and after crossing to come back along the shoulder of Roche Miette, in order to avoid some swamps near the mouth. Disaster point<sup>1</sup> the end of this shoulder, has been cut away to make a passage for



Morro Gorge from Snaring River Crossing (60)

<sup>1</sup> The Chief's bag got a crush against a rock, and his flask, that held a drop of brandy carefully preserved for the next plum-pudding, was broken. It was hard, but on an expedition like this the most serious losses are taken calmly and soon forgotten.  
—G. M. Grant in Ocean to Ocean.

the railway, and the packers now drive their horses through the rock cut rather than use the old fur traders' trail which crossed high up on the mountain. Beyond here the trail reaches the old construction road and follows it down the valley to Pocahontas.

**SNAKE INDIAN RIVER AND FALLS.** The falls on Snake Indian river are about thirty-seven miles from Jasper and the trip requires two days each way. The route

Mt. Greenock

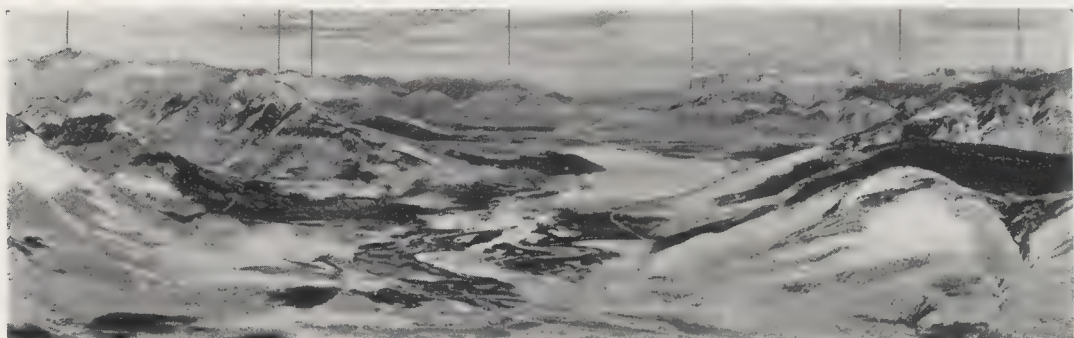
Roche Ronde

Boule Roche

Roche Miette

Morro Pk. Morro Gorge

Roche de Smet



Jasper Lake from the Palisade (59)

taken leads down the valley of the Athabaska, following the old railway construction road for about twenty-four miles to where the river emerges from the deep channel which it has eroded in its own valley, into the wide flats of Athabaska river. Along these flats it flows northerly for about three miles before entering the Athabaska. The trip throughout is full of interest and many delightful views of the mountains are displayed while passing through the park-like woods or open meadows along the Athabaska.

About seven miles below Jasper is Swift's ranch. Swift settled there in September 1891, but now resides in Jasper. Everybody knows Swift.

"His name," says Washburn, "is known and respected by every trapper, pioneer and prospector who has threaded the wilderness within a thousand miles."

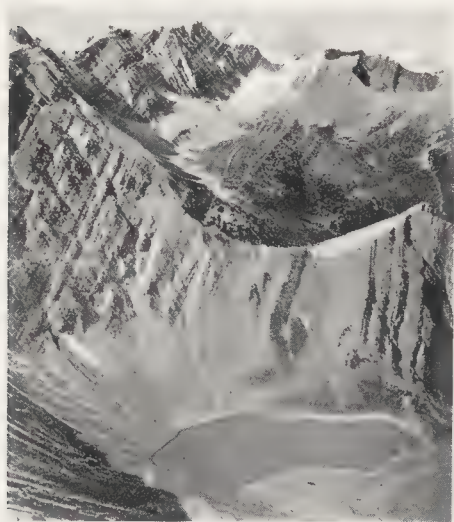
Washburn, who had many a talk with him, relates how the call of the wild came to Swift in the early seventies, then a youngster in Buffalo selling lightning rods. In a few years he had made a reputation for himself as a daring driver of the stage line that ran from Bismark, North Dakota, to Deadwood. The year 1890 found him

Snaring River and Mt. Chetamon  
from the Railway Crossing (60)

prospecting in British Columbia, then he bought a pack outfit and hit out for the undiscovered country at the head of the Fraser river. Three months after leaving Kamloops he reached the Tête Jaune cache at the west end of the Yellowhead pass. Here Indians advised him to make for Edmonton, but the attractions of Jasper park were too much for him, and he has been there ever since, trapping and trading.

"In all these years," says Washburn, "there was never a poor bedraggled trapper or prospector, red or white, that was ever turned away from Swift's with an empty stomach. If an unfortunate lost his outfit in the rivers, it was always: 'If we can get to Swift's place, he'll fix us out.'"

Four miles farther on we reach Snaring river and through its narrow gorge obtain a glimpse of the rocky peaks beyond. From here the road continues along the flat for about two miles and then swinging to the left passes close to the base of several high mountains, the highest being Gargoyles mountain, whose summit stands 5,500 feet above the valley. Corral creek, on the south side of this peak, has a wide gravel bar, dry except in high water, but about



Chetamon Lake  
Looking northwest from (61)

half a mile beyond, a large stream flows from a spring at the base of a long shoulder of the mountain.

Sixteen miles from Jasper, Vine creek is reached. An old trail which leads up this creek into a tributary of Snake Indian river, is reported to cross from there into the valley of Snaring river. For a distance of four miles up this creek, all the timber has been destroyed by fire, and for the greater part of this distance the trail follows the rocky bottom of the creek. The remainder of the valley and the valley beyond is heavily timbered. From a camp near the summit, the ascent of Roche De Smet may be made very easily.

A magnificent view of the Athabaska valley and of the mountains to the east may be obtained from mount Greenock a low peak lying about two miles north of the point where the road crosses. (View page 21.)

Soon after passing Vine creek, the road goes close to the edge of the south end of Jasper lake, and then to avoid the cliffs along the shore, climbs up to the bench some six hundred feet above the lake. It then gradually descends to the flats at the mouth of the gorge, where the trail crosses Snake Indian river, while the road continues across the flats to the old ford on Athabaska river, opposite Roche Miette.

This is the place where Sir James Hector forded the river on his way to Jasper House, January 31, 1859:—

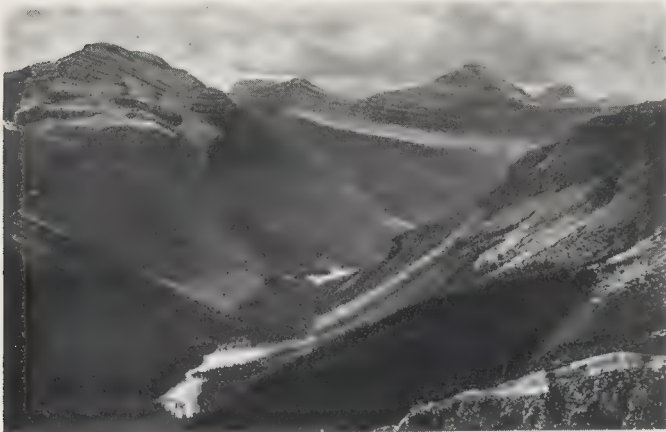
It was quite dark when we reached the base of Miette's Rock, where a spur of the mountain from the south compelled us again to seek the river, which we now found to be a rapid stream, without more than a mere fringe of ice about its margins. After searching about for a crossing place in the dark without



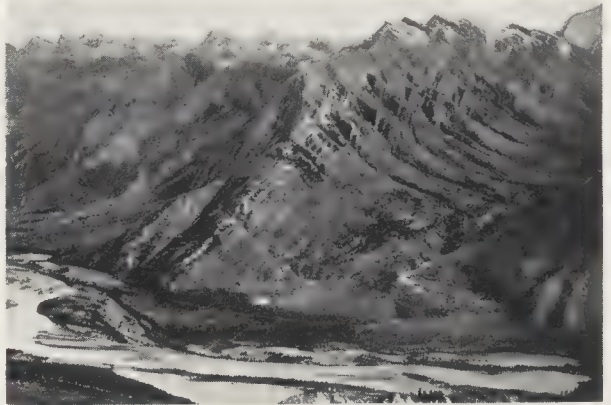
success, we took the most shallow place we could find, where the river was very rapid, and without taking the harness off the dogs, unfastened them from the sleighs, and pitching them into the water, pelted them with pieces of ice, so that they swam for the other side of the river. We then got off the edge of the ice ourselves, and found the water took us about the waist, and getting the sleds, loads and all, on our shoulders, waded through the rapid, which was about 100 yards wide, and so reached the left bank. The wind, which had changed at sunset to NE., was bitterly cold, so that the plunge into the water felt rather warm at first, but on re-emerging we at once stiffened into a mass of ice, for as I found half an hour afterwards, the thermometer stood at  $-15^{\circ}$ . In this state we again tackled the dogs, that were all frozen into a lump with their harness, and after a run of two miles through the woods, we reached Jasper House at 10 p. m.

From the crossing the trail ascends on to the benches on the north side of Snake Indian river and leads up the stream.

The river is called Stoney river on Thompson's map, 1813-14. The name Snake Indian is first found on the Palliser Expedition map. Sir James Hector explains that there was once a tribe of Indians known as the Snakes, that lived in the country to the north of Jasper House, but which, during the time of the North West Fur Company, was 'treacherously exterminated by the Assiniboines. They were invited to a peace feast by the latter Indians,



South Branch of Snake Indian River from Mt. Bistre (67)



Roche Jacques from Mt. Esplanade (62)

Jacques creek on the right. The head of Jasper lake on the left

when they were to settle all their disputes, and neither party was to bring any weapons. It was held about three miles below the second site of Jasper House, but the Assiniboines being all secretly armed, fell on the poor Snakes in the midst of the revelry, and killed them all.

The Snake Indians proper, whom De Smet says are so called by reason of their poverty, which reduces

them to burrow in the ground like those reptiles and to live upon roots, seem never to have lived in Canada, and the name may have been used here as a generic epithet descriptive of any feeble tribe. De Smet, for instance, says:—

*Trips North from Jasper*

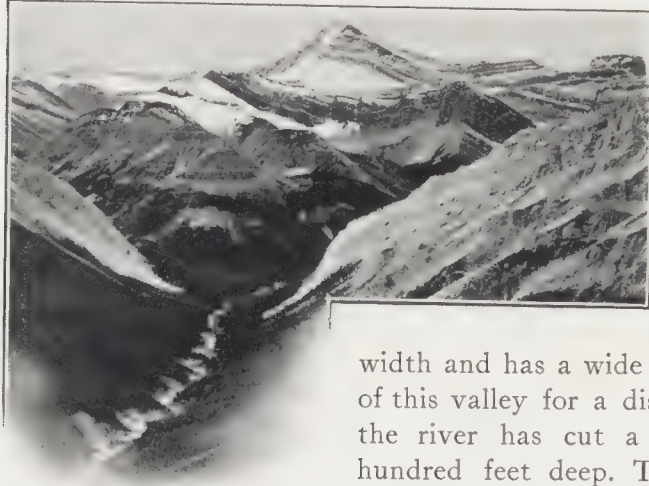
Many wandering families of the Carrier tribe and Ashiganes or Sock Indians of New Caledonia, compelled by hunger, have quitted their country, traversed the east of the mountains and now range the valleys of this region in quest of food. They nourish themselves with roots, and whatever they can catch, many of them have their teeth worn to the gums by the earth and sand they swallow with their nourishment. The winter they are well, for then the moose, elk, and reindeer are plentiful. . . . By way of a

dainty morsel, the Indians pluck out the eyes of fish with the end of the fingers and swallow them raw, likewise the tripes with their whole contents, without further ceremony than placing them an instant on the coals, from thence into the omnibus or general reservoir, without even undergoing the operation of the jaws.

The valley of Snake Indian river is six miles or more in

width and has a wide flat bottom. Through the floor of this valley for a distance of about fourteen miles, the river has cut a narrow channel two to four hundred feet deep. The falls are situated near the upper end of this channel and are said to be about forty feet across and sixty feet high. On the benches about a mile to the north of the trail, and about three miles from the crossing, there are two fair-sized lakes, Celestine lake and Princess lake. On the south side

of the river there are three large tributaries entering the main stream below the falls, two close together about eight miles up and the third about twelve miles above the ford. These streams have their sources in the higher mountains to the south and enter the main valley through deep gorges in the ridge extending northwest from Roche De Smet. About eleven miles up, a tributary enters from the north, one of whose branches heads below mount Aeolus. Horses may be taken to the head of this stream, from which the ascent of mount Aeolus may be made quite easily.



Whitecap and Branch of Snake Indian River From Mt. Cum-nock (66)



Goats



Eagle

## CHAPTER VI

### TRIPS FROM POCAHONTAS

Snake Indian valley . . . Ronde creek . . . Coronach creek . . . Roche Ronde . . . Roche à Bosche  
Moosehorn creek . . . Boule Roche and Ogre gorge . . . Punchbowl falls . . . Roche Miette  
Roche à Perdrix . . . Miette hot springs . . . Fiddle river . . . Rocky river gorge

**SNAKE INDIAN RIVER.** Snake Indian valley described in the last chapter may be reached from Pocahontas more quickly than from Jasper, if arrangements can be made to cross the Athabaska. When the water is low enough to permit fording the river, it is only six miles to the mouth of the valley.

**RONDE CREEK.** This is a small stream entering the Athabaska almost directly opposite Pocahontas. Coal mines have been opened nearby and several houses have been built near its mouth for the miners. It flows through a very narrow and picturesque wooded ravine, one hundred feet or more in depth. A good footpath leads for some distance up the ravine.

**CORONACH CREEK.** Coronach creek is on the opposite side of the river from Pocahontas, about four miles above the Canadian Northern station of Bedson. Its source is a high rocky basin lying behind Roche à Bosche, out of which it flows through the high perpendicular walls of a narrow gap between this mountain and the one behind. Winding to the south of Roche à Bosche, it passes within a mile of Celestine lake, and then recrosses the ridge in a gorge two to three hundred feet deep. A smaller and less picturesque stream, heading in the valley between Roche à Bosche and Roche Ronde, joins the former a short distance above the trail. Near the mouth of the stream, there are some fine open meadows and park-like woods. From a camp at this point Roche à Bosche or Roche Ronde may be climbed without difficulty.



**ROCHE RONDE.** Roche Ronde is the mountain at the southeast end of the range lying between Moosehorn creek and Snake Indian river. It lies across the river from Pocahontas and is about five miles distant. The side fronting the station is a precipitous limestone wall, seven or eight hundred feet high. Seen from here, in the early morning light, it shows the clearly defined profile of an Indian warrior with his war-plumes floating behind him.

Principal Grant thus describes it:—

Roche Ronde was to our right, its stratification as distinct as the leaves of a half opened book. The mass of the rock was limestone, and what at a distance had been only peculiarly bold and rugged outlines, were now seen to be the different angles and contortions of the strata. And such contortions! One high mass twisting up the sides in serpentine folds; another bent in great waving lines, like petrified billows. The colouring, too, was all that artist could desire. Not only the dark green of the spruce in the corries, which turned into black when far up, but autumn tints of red and gold as high as vegetation had climbed on the hill sides; and above that, streaks and patches of yellow, green, rusty red and black, relieving the grey mass of limestone; while up the valley, every shade of blue came out according as the hills were near or far away, and summits hoary with snow bounded the horizon.

From the northeast, or south, the ascent of this mountain might offer some difficulty, particularly from the east or south, but from behind, by way of the north branch of Coronach creek, there is no difficulty. A small lake lies on the saddle behind the peak, about three hundred feet below the summit.

Though nearly the lowest mountain of the range, it stands thirty-eight hundred feet above the valley of the Athabaska, giving a magnificent view of the river with its many lakes, islands and winding channels. Directly across the river rise the imposing cliffs of Roche Miette while below and to the right is the wide valley of the Rocky river. To the east and north stand Roche à Perdris and Boule Roche, forming the gateway to the mountains through which Athabaska river flows on Bosse, a hump. The mountain belongs to the same group as Roche Ronde and is very conspicuous from the valley.



Boule Range looking Northeast  
from (76)

its way to the ocean. To the south lie Jasper lake and the upper valley of the Athabaska, while both to south and west are innumerable peaks gradually increasing in height as the summit of Rocky mountains is approached.

**ROCHE A BOSCHE.** The meaning of Bosche is not known. It may be a corruption of

**MOOSEHORN CREEK.** This is a small stream entering Athabaska river from the northwest, a short distance below Pocahontas. The valley is wide and "U" shaped,

with a large meadow at its mouth. Above this meadow, for about four miles, the stream runs through a deep gorge which it has eroded in the bottom of the valley. Near the head is a small lake, and a low pass beyond leads into Hay river. The whole valley has been swept by fire and only occasional clumps of green timber remain.

On the south side, the slopes rise gradually to near timber line, and beyond this the mountains are steep and rugged with precipitous outlying cliffs of limestone. The highest



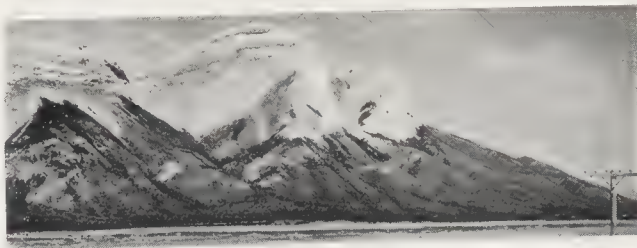
Boule Roche from Bedson Ridge (78)  
The plains of Alberta in the distance

mountain of the range, in fact, the highest in the neighbourhood, mount Aeolus (8,672 feet), may be climbed by following up a small water-course on the east side to the summit of

the ridge behind and then by traversing the arête overlooking Moosehorn creek. Just above mount Aeolus and about eight miles from the Athabaska a large creek enters from the west, and beyond the mountains become lower.

On the north side between the creek and the main range, lies a ridge of low hills through which several large creeks enter the main valley by narrow deep-cut channels. Beyond these hills, between them and the summit, rises a rock wall several hundred feet high, which extends in a straight line for about three miles. Through this wall, the branches of the above stream have cut their channels, leaving deep rugged gaps. These gorges, of which there are seven in less than three miles, are found on the branches of the third and fourth tributaries entering from the north,

above the mouth of the main stream. Farther south, the wall is less distinct, and on the north it becomes



Boule Roche from the Head of Brulé Lake (90)

coincident with the main range.

The summits of the mountains of this range consist of peaks, flat topped and

covered with shale on the side facing the creek, but breaking away abruptly to the north-east. These peaks ranging from 7,000 to 8,000 feet above sea-level, form the outlying escarpment of the higher mountains, and overlook the lower foothills beyond.

The old packtrail which followed the creek bottom, crossing and re-crossing the stream, has been abandoned and a new trail has been constructed, following the south bank of Ronde creek and climbing to the benches above. For some distance it runs near the base of the mountains, and then cuts across the flats toward Moose-



Roche Miette and Pocahontas from Bedson (75)

Pocahontas and Jasper collieries on the left. Athabaska and railways in foreground

horn creek, joining the original trail at the mouth of the creek flowing from mount Aeolus.

**BOULE ROCHE AND OGRE GORGE.** Boule Roche, five and one half miles north of Pocahontas, lies on the west side of the Athabaska valley at the entrance to the mountains. On the north side it is extremely steep and precipitous, while on the south the slopes though rocky are more gradual. A peculiar wavy form of stratification is very plainly marked near the top. From the summit, a long ridge with a perpendicular wall facing east, extends southward to the river. Through the end of this ridge the Canadian Northern has constructed a long tunnel.

About a mile west of the river, the stream draining the valley south of the mountain flows through a break in the wall, at this point about two hundred feet high. This ravine has been called Ogre gorge because from one viewpoint an enormous head with mouth outstretched is apparently trying to bite out of a large rock on the opposite side. There is a tradition that an Indian went into the gorge and was never seen again.

To reach this gorge from Pocahontas, it is necessary to cross the Athabaska. Usually a boat is taken as far as the Canadian Northern tunnel, about four miles down the river and a short distance above Brulé lake. From here, the trip is com-



pleted on foot as the stream near its entrance to the lake becomes very narrow and rapid. The whole trip requires about five hours.

**PUNCHBOWL FALLS.** This is a small but very attractive waterfall situated on Mountain creek, about one thousand yards from Pocahontas. The solid rock has been eroded so as to resemble a huge goblet, and from this the fall derives its name. A good trail has been built and some rustic bridges constructed below it, so that it may be seen to the best possible advantage.

**ROCHE MIETTE.** One of the most prominent mountains near the railway is Roche Miette, a huge barren rock lying slightly over two miles south of Pocahontas. Its summit rises over four thousand feet above the river, the last thousand feet being almost precipitous. This mountain has been mentioned by nearly every traveller who has passed through the Athabaska valley.



Jasper Lake from Roche Miette (82)

Rocky river in foreground  
Pyramid mountain on the left

Principal Grant refers to it as "that imposing sphinx-like head with the swelling Elizabethan ruff of sandstone and shales around the neck, save on one side where a corrugated mass of partly-coloured strata twisted like a coil of serpents from far down nearly half way up the head, haunted us for days. Mighty must have been the forces that upreared and shaped such a monument. Vertical strata were piled on horizontal, and horizontal again on the vertical, as if nature had determined to build a tower that would reach to the skies."

Paul Kane gives us the origin of the name:—

We were now close upon the mountains, and it is scarcely possible to conceive the intense force with which the wind howled through a gap formed by the perpendicular rock called 'Miette's Rock,' 1,500 feet high on the one side and a lofty mountain on the other. The former derives its appellation from a French voyageur, who climbed its summit and sat smoking his pipe with his legs hanging over the fearful abyss.

The projecting shoulders of Roche Miette bar the way to the east side of the Athabaska river, and before the advent of the railway, it was passed by means of a steep and dangerous trail which climbed nearly two thousand feet above the river. No doubt this toilsome climb has tended to add to the distinction of the mountain. However, since the construction of the railway, the old trail has been abandoned, and the packers now take horses through the rock cut on the Grand Trunk Pacific at Disaster point, a much shorter and easier route, though not necessarily a safer one.

Roche Miette may be ascended from Pocahontas in three to four hours. Roads and trails for the use of the miners have been built almost to timber line on the north side, where the mountain can be climbed easily. The top is large and undulating, for the most part covered with reddish shale, and water may usually be found within one hundred feet of the summit.



Roche à Perdrix, Fiddle Range and Ashlar Ridge from Roche Miette (83).

The valley of Fiddle river is in front of Ashlar ridge in the foreground. The Fiddle gorge across Ashlar ridge is in line with Roche à Perdrix, the mountain on the left, which is the northwest extremity of Fiddle range. In the distance on the left are the plains of Alberta

The view from the summit is magnificent, presenting an unbroken panorama of the Athabaska valley for twenty-five miles, including Brulé lake to the north and Jasper lake to the south. On the west side of the Athabaska lie the valleys of Moosehorn creek and Snake Indian river, and on the east side just below and to the south, is the wide valley of the Rocky river, the gorge a few miles above its mouth, plainly visible. To the north, beyond the gap, between Boule Roche and Roche à Perdrix, rolling foothills extend as far as the eye can see. In every other direction high mountains rise, range beyond range, a sea of peaks. Conspicuous among these is the glacier-crowned summit of Pyramid mountain, to the left of Jasper lake and the sharp peak of Mount Aeolus on the south side of Moosehorn creek.

Concerning RocheMiette and the geology of the region Professor Coleman says:—

We were now in a region of sharply folded mountains and a splendid anticlinal arch, thousands of feet high, rose just across the river, a fitting doorway to a superhuman cathedral, for ever closed to man. Farther up there were synclinal mountains, where the anticlinal arches had been ruptured and destroyed, leaving what was once the bottom of the valley high up in the sky as jagged pinacles, convincing instances of the lofty being humbled and the lowly exalted.

Other folds had been flung over on their side and had then been carved by frosts and torrents into all sorts of adventurous shapes, which, though not very lofty, were far more exciting to a geologist than the

huge blocks tilted up to the northeast found in the other main valleys, such as the Brazeau, the Clearwater and the Bow.

The stiff beds of limestone, quartzite and slate of the Athabaska mountains must have been buried under a far thicker load of over-lying rock than was the case farther southeast to make them so much more plastic, and one must imagine them to have been thousands of feet below the original surface when they were crumpled and contorted into their present daring forms.

Roche Miette, around whose projecting cliffs the trail curved beside the river, is the most impressive bit of architecture along the Athabaska, pushing its bold front out into the valley like a commanding fort with unscalable walls three thousand feet high, and a flat top somewhat parapeted and loopholed. Though it belongs to the third range inward from the edge of the mountains, the nearly vertical cliff and the square massive front can be seen many miles out on the plains.

Beyond it to the east the lower outlying range has been severely folded, so that one mass has been named by McEvoy Folding mountain. We lunched near the foot of this peak where there was plenty of grass in the little openings among the poplars, so that our horses could fill up satisfactorily before entering the wooded foot-hills just outside the mountains.

**ROCHE A PERDRIX.** Roche à Perdrix lies about five miles east of Pocahontas and directly across Athabaska river from Boule Roche. These two mountains, standing on opposite sides of the river, guard the narrow gateway to the wonderland within. Its name, Perdrix, is derived from the peculiar folding of its strata which is said, from some viewpoints, to resemble the tail of a partridge.

Situated at the west end of the Fiddle mountains., Roche à Perdrix rises abruptly thirty-five hundred feet above the meadows at its base. From its summit a fine view may be obtained of the meadows and of the Athabaska valley beyond, of Moosehorn valley, and of the neighbouring mountains.

Directly below Roche à Perdrix are large meadows and open park lands with a growth of scattered poplar, spruce and jack pine. These lands are covered with a luxuriant growth of grass and wild flowers, and in the latter part of the summer berries are very plentiful. Farther north or west, the country, still level or rolling gently, is heavily wooded with many small lakes in the timber. Through this district the trail passes, winding close beneath Roche à Perdrix and skirting the base of Folding mountain before it turns down the valley of Maskuta creek.

This is the trail followed by Grant where the party had the first good view, at close range, of the mountains.

Suddenly it (the trail) opened out on a lakelet, and right in front, a semi-circle of five glorious mountains appeared; a high wooded hill and Roche à Perdrix on our left, Roche à Myette beyond, Roche Ronde in front, and a mountain above Lac Brulè on our right. For half a mile down from their summits,



Roche à Perdrix from Bedson Ridge (78)

Fiddle gorge and Ashlar ridge on the right. Athabaska river in foreground on the left



no tree, shrub, or plant covered the nakedness of the three that the old trappers had thought worthy of names; and a clothing of vegetation would have marred their massive grandeur. The first three were so near and towered up so bold that their full forms, even to the long shadows on them, were reflected clearly in the lakelet, next to the rushes and spruce of its own shores. Here is a scene for a grand picture equal to Hill's painting of the Yo Semite Valley. A little farther on, another lakelet reflected the mountains to the right, showing not only the massive grey and blue of the limestone, but red and green colourings among the shales that separated the strata of limestone. The road now descended rapidly from the summit of the wooded hill that we had so slowly gained, to the valley of the Athabaska. As it wound from point to point among the tall dark green spruces, and over rose bushes and vetches, the soft blue of the mountains gleamed through everywhere, and when the woods parted, the mighty column of Roche à Perdrix towered a mile above our heads, scuds of clouds kissing its snowy summit, and each plication and angle of the different strata up its giant sides was boldly and clearly revealed. We were entering the magnificent Jasper portals of the Rocky Mountains by a quiet path winding between groves of trees and rich lawns like an English gentleman's park.

Crossing a brook, divided into half a dozen brooklets by willows, the country opened a little and the base and inner side of Roche a Perdrix were revealed; but it was still an amphitheatre of mountains that opened out before us, and Roche à Myette seemed as far off as ever. Soon the Riviere de Violon was heard brawling around the base of Roche à Perdrix and rushing on like a true mountain torrent to the Athabaska. We stopped to drink to the Queen out of its clear ice-cold waters, and halted for dinner in a grove on the other side of it, thoroughly excited and awed by the grand forms that had begirt our path for the last three hours. We could sympathize with the enthusiast, who returned home after years of absence, and when asked what he had as an equivalent for so much lost time, answered: "I have seen the Rocky mountains."

**MIETTE HOT SPRINGS.** Situated in a deep gorge on Sulphur creek, a branch of Fiddle river, there are several hot sulphur springs which are said to be of great medicinal value and many cures of rheumatism have been reported. The springs are confined to a zone about two hundred feet wide and range in temperature from 101 to 128 degrees Fahrenheit. Some circular bathing pools, constructed from boulders and sulphur rock, are supposed to have been made by the Hudson's Bay fur traders. Though there is very little accommodation for tourists at present, this will doubtless be remedied in the near future and the springs will then rival those of Banff.

On this creek, a short distance below the hot springs, there is a small gorge, near which the trail passes, and several small falls have been discovered on the creek above the springs.

An analysis of the water, made for the Geological Survey of Canada in 1910, gives the probable composition as follows:—

	Parts per Million.	Grains per Gallon.
Sodium chloride (NaCl) . . . . .	11	0.77
“ sulphate (Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> ) . . . . .	27	1.89
Potassium sulphate (K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> ) . . . . .	39	2.73
Magnesium “ (MgSO <sub>4</sub> ) . . . . .	324	22.68
Calcium “ (CaSO <sub>4</sub> ) . . . . .	1,104	77.28
“ carbonate (CaCO <sub>2</sub> ) . . . . .	193	13.51
“ phosphate (Ca <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) . . . . .	traces	traces
Oxide of iron, Alumina (Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ) . . . . .	“	“
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) . . . . .	45	3.15

The springs are about ten miles southeast of Pocahontas. A good pack trail has been constructed and they may be reached in about three hours.

**FIDDLE RIVER.** This is a large stream entering Athabaska river from the south, about three miles northeast of Pocahontas. It is remarkable chiefly on account of the rough tortuous nature of the lower part of the valley. Within twelve miles of its mouth it crosses three times through a pronounced ridge of limestone, each time in a deep gorge.

The first gorge occurs between two and three miles from the mouth of the river, where it crosses the ridge for the first time. This gorge may be reached by the old construction road down the Athabaska, which passes within a mile of the lower end. The upper end may be reached by taking the trail leading to the Miette hot springs. This trail reaches Fiddle river, about five miles from Pocahontas, at a point about one mile above the end of the gorge.

About eight miles from the mouth, the river again crosses the ridge. Probably the best way to explore this gorge would be to leave the trail at the mouth of Sulphur creek and follow up Fiddle river on foot.

The third gorge, about twelve miles from the railway, is where the stream crosses the ridge for the third and last time. The upper end of this gorge may be reached by taking the trail to the Miette hot springs. From here a trail leads to a small stream entering from the south about half a mile above the springs. Following up this stream, the trail crosses the summit through a beautiful timbered pass about fifty-three hundred feet high and descends into the valley of Fiddle river a short distance above the gorge. The total distance from Pocahontas is about thirteen or fourteen miles. Fiddle river, or *rivière de Violon*, was known by this name in De Smet's day. It may have originated from the fact that the course of the main stream and of its tributary resembles somewhat the outline of a fiddle.

**ROCKY RIVER GORGE.** Rocky river, one of the largest tributaries of the Athabaska, enters from the east a short distance below Hawes. For five miles above its mouth, it flows through a wide valley with a gravel bar five or six hundred feet in



Fiddle Gorge

width. Above that for about four miles, it flows through a fine gorge about three hundred feet deep, with many striking features. At the upper end of the gorge, Swiftwater creek enters from the south. There is another smaller gorge on this stream about a mile and a half above its mouth, where the creek enters the main valley through a narrow gap between the two mountains.



Rocky River from Roche Miette (82)

Roche Jacques is cut by right border. Mt. Emir is the next mountain to the left. The tributary of Rocky river in foreground is Makwa creek. The small hill on the left is Makwa ridge

The gorge of the Rocky river is about ten miles from Pocahontas and the round trip may be made in one day. The trail passes underneath the impressive cliffs of Roche Miette and turns up the north side of the

river along the base of the rugged range extending southwesterly from Roche Miette. If more time is available the trip may be continued to Jacques lake, about fourteen miles beyond.

The gorge may be reached from Jasper also, the round trip from the latter place requiring about four days.



Goat





# Grouse

## APPENDIX A

### TRIPS OF INTEREST FROM JASPER

TRIP	Approximate distance in miles	Time for round trip	Height feet.	Remarks
Miette valley	2	1 hour		Wagon road.
Pyramid lake	4	2 hours	3867	"
Maligne gorge	9	5 "		" passes Beauvert, Trefoil, Annette and Edith lakes.
Snaring river	10	6 "		Wagon road.
Cabin lake	2	3 "	3992	
Caledonia lake	4	3 "	3810	
Dorothy lake	10	6 "	4383	
Oldfort point	1½	2½ "	3822	
Pyramid mountain		1 day	9076	No trail beyond Pyramid lake.
The Whistlers	6	6 hours		Packtrail.
Roche Bonhomme	11	1 day	8185	Ascent requires about 4 hours from cabin at Maligne gorge.
				No trail beyond gorge.
Signal mountain	10	1 "	7397	North end of the Maligne mountains. Other parts of the range may be reached by spending two or more days on the trip.
Mount Tekarra	13	2 days	8818	By taking horses to Signal mountain, the trip might be made in one day.
Excelsior mountain	15	2 "	9100	By way of Signal mountain.
Prairie de la Vache	10	1 day		
Medicine lake	18	2 days	4785	Trip out and return by Maligne gorge.
" "		3 "		Trip out by Maligne gorge, and return by Shovel pass.
Jacques lake	30	4 "		Trip out by Maligne valley and Medicine lake. Return via Jacques creek and Inter-laken.

*Appendix A*

TRIP	Approximate distance in miles	Time for round trip	Height feet.	Remarks
Maligne lake	40	4 days		Trip out and return by way of Medicine lake.
“ “		5 “		Trip out by Medicine lake and return by Shovel pass.
Athabaska falls	20	2 “		
Mount Edith Cavell	15	2 “	11033	Camp at Cavell lake, (5610 feet). This does not include the ascent of the mountain.
Whistlers valley	10	2 “		Camp at head of valley. The Whistlers, Indian Ridge or Marmot mountain may be ascended from here in two hours. Manx peak also might be climbed from this camp.
Amethyst lakes and Tonquin valley	22	4 “	6450 (lakes)	The trail passes up Whistlers creek, Portal creek and into Meadow creek.
Mount Geikie	25	4 “	10854	This does not include the ascent of the mountain.
Yellowhead pass	16	2 “	3720	Yellowhead lake lies about 3 miles beyond the pass.
Pocahontas	35	3 to 4 “	3259	1½ to 2 days necessary for one way trip on either side of Athabaska river.
Interlaken	15	2 “	3291	
Snake Indian falls	36	4 “	4000	

## FROM POCAHONTAS (West side of Athabaska).

Bedson	1½	2 hours	3269	Canadian Northern station across Athabaska river.
Ogre gorge	5	5 “		4 miles by boat to Canadian Northern tunnel and one mile beyond on foot.
Boule Roche	8	1 day	7230	The ascent requires 4 to 5 hours from the tunnel.
Moose creek	15	2 days		One day to head of valley and one day to return.
Mount Aeolus		1½ “	8672	Camp would have to be made about four miles up Moosehorn creek the first day and the climb and return the second day.
Ronde creek	3	3 hours		1 to 1½ miles across the Athabaska river. Good trail remainder of the way.

TRIP	Approximate distance in miles	Time for round trip	Height feet.	Remarks
Roche Ronde		1½ days	7014	Ascent may be made in three hours from Coronach creek.
Coronach creek	5	1 day		1 to 1½ miles across Athabaska river. Good trail remainder of the way.
Roche à Bosche		1 "	6966	Ascent may be made in three hours from Coronach creek.
Celestine lake		1 "	4100	May be reached in two hours from Coronach creek. No trail.
Snake Indian falls	17	2 days		1 to 1½ miles across the Athabaska river. Good trail remainder of the way.
Jasper	35	3 to 4 "	3471	Trip one way requires 1½ or 2 days.

## FROM POCAHONTAS (East side of Athabaska)

Punchbowl falls	½	½ hour		
Town	1	1 "		There is a wagon road to the town on the bench about 300 feet above the station.
Meadows below Roche à Perdrix	7	3 hours		These flats may be reached by wagon road.
Roche à Perdrix	6	1 day	7002	Ascent from the meadows below requires 3 to 4 hours.
Roche Miette	3	1 "	7599	Ascent from Pocahontas requires 3 to 4 hours.
Fiddle River gorge (lower)	4	3 hours		Gorge can be entered only in low water.
Fiddle River gorge (middle)	11			May be reached by way of trail to hot springs. No trail up Fiddle river beyond the mouth of Sulphur creek.
Fiddle River gorge (upper)	14	2 days		The upper end of this gorge may be reached by following the trail over the pass below mount Utopia.
Hot sulphur springs	10	6 hours		
Mount Utopia	14	2 days	8538	Ascent requires 3 to 4 hours from a camp on the summit of the pass to the north.
Rocky River gorge	10	7 hours		
Jacques lake	25	2 to 3 days		Trail leads by Rocky river gorge. Return trip might be made by way of Jacques creek and Interlaken.
Jasper	35	4 "		Trip one way may be made in 1½ or 2 days.



# DETAILS OF SINGLE TRIPS

## JASPER TO TONQUIN VALLEY AND AMETHYST LAKES

	Distance in miles.	Total distance from Jasper	Height feet.	Remarks.
Whistlers creek	4	4	3700	The trail crosses the creek at the base of the mountain.
Head of Whistlers creek	6	10	6500	Good camp grounds in the upper part of the valley. The Whistlers, Indian ridge, Manx peak and Marmot mountain may be reached from here.
Marmot pass to Portal creek	1	11	7400	
Portal creek	2	13	5900	Near the mouth of Circus creek.
The Portal	1	14		Lectern peak, mount Aquila, Franchère peak or Portal peak might be ascended from here.
Head of Portal creek	2	16	6700	Camp is within easy distance of Chak peak, mount Maccarib and mount Clitheroe. Mount Majestic or Oldhorn mountain might be reached. Astoria pass to the left leads to Astoria river above mount Edith Cavell.
Maccarib pass to Meadow creek	2	18	7150	This pass leads into the valley of Maccarib creek a branch of Meadow creek.
West shoulder of mount Clitheroe	2	20	6500	Mount Clitheroe or mount Majestic may be climbed from here. Tonquin hill may be reached easily. From here horses may be taken to Amethyst lakes, Chrome lake or to the Tonquin pass below mount Geikie.
Crescent creek	8	28		This point is a short distance below The Forum, Roche Noire and mount Arris.
Miette river	5	33	3550	From here the old construction road leads to Jasper.
Jasper	8	41		

## JASPER TO YELLOWHEAD PASS

Cabin lake trail	1	1		It is about one mile from the road to the lake.
Railway crossing	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	3440	The road crosses below both railways.
Miette river	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	3400	First crossing.
Miette river	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	3400	Second crossing.

	Distance in miles.	Total distance from Jasper	Height feet.	Remarks.
Caledonia lake	1	3		The trail leaves the road just below the Canadian Northern bridge across Miette river. The lake is about one mile distant.
Miette river	1½	4½	3450	Third crossing.
Miette river	3½	8	3580	Fourth crossing. The road crosses the Grand Trunk Pacific railway and Meadow creek, nearby. Just below the crossing a rough trail leads to Dorothy lake about 2½ miles distant.
Derr creek	6½	14½		
Yellowhead pass	3½	18	3721	

### JASPER TO MALIGNE GORGE

Jasper			3471	
Athabaska river	1½	1½	3400	
Lake Beauvert	½	2	3356	
Trefoil lakes	1½	3½	3354	
Annette lake	1	4½	3344	
Edith lake	½	5	3339	
Trail	2	7	3560	Trail to summit of Signal mountain.
Maligne cabin	4	9	3770	Roche Bonhomme may be ascended in four to five hours.

### JASPER TO MALIGNE RANGE

Jasper			3471	
Trail	7	7	3560	The trail branches from the Maligne road.
Camp below Signal mountain	4	11	6500	Ascent of Signal mount may be made in one-half hour or ascent of mount Tekarra in three hours.
Camp below mount Tekarra	4	15	6600	Ascent of mount Tekarra or Excelsior mountain may be made in about three hours. The ascent of the Watchtower might also be made from this camp.



Adder's Tongue.

## APPENDIX B

### PLACE-NAMES AND HEIGHTS OF MOUNTAINS

Figures marked \* are approximate.

Name and Number	Feature	Height Feet	Origin.
Aeolus (71)	Mount	8672	Reached on a windy day.
Alcove	Mountain	9200*	
Amber (33)	"	8341	Summit is covered with reddish coloured shale.
Angle	Peak	9500*	
Antler	Mountain	8400*	
Aquila (4)	Mount	9269*	An eagle.
Arris (17)	"	8875	
Ashlar	Ridge	6100*	A smooth wall.
Astoria	River		After the fur traders' establishment at the mouth of the Columbia river.
Athabaska	"		Indian name meaning "place where there are reeds," referring to the delta of the river.
Barbican	Peak	9000*	
Basilica	Mount	9400*	
Bastion	Peak	9500*	
Beauvert	Lake		Beautiful green.
Beaver	Bluffs	6100*	
Bedson (78)	Ridge	6865	
Bistre (67)	Mount.	7757	
Blackhorn	Peak	9800*	



Name and Number	Feature	Height Feet	Origin.
Bonhomme Roche (34)	A mountain		Resembles a man's face. Mentioned by Grant in "Ocean to Ocean," 1873.
Bosche (Roche à) (68)	"	6966	May mean "hump rock," mentioned by Grant in "Ocean to Ocean," 1873.
Boule Roche	"	7230	Meaning "ball rock."
Brown	Mount		Named by D. Douglas, 1827, after Robert Brown, (1775-1858) botanist.
Brule	Lake		
Buttress	Mountain	8809	
Cairngorm (55)	A mountain	8564	Gaelic for "yellow."
Capitol	Mount	7400*	
Centre	Mountain	8800	Halfway between Excelsior and Amber mountains.
Chak (5)	Peak	9114	Indian for eagle.
Chetamon (61)	Mount	8500*	Indian for "squirrel." Two rocks on the arête resemble squirrels.
Chevron	"	9300*	Double pointed.
Christie	"		Named by Hector, 1859, after Chief Factor Wm. J. Christie, H.B.Co.
Chrome	Lake		Dirty yellow.
Clairvaux	Mount and creek	8800*	"Meaning bright valley."
Cliff	Mountain	9000	
Clitheroe (11)	Mount	9014	Meaning "rock by the water."
Colin	Mountain	8815	
Colin	Range	7024	May be after Colin Fraser, P.M., Jasper House, 1840-46.
Committee's Punch Bowl	Pond		After the Governing Committee of the Hudson's Bay Co. or of the North West Co.
Consort	Mount	9460	
Coronach (70)	Mountain	8078	Because of howling of coyotes.
Cumnock (66)	Mount	8571	Meaning "meeting of waters."
Curia	"	9300*	
Derr	Creek		Named by J. McEvoy after his packer.
De Smet (Roche) (65)	A mountain	8330	De Smet describes how the Indians named a peak after him.
Diadem	Peak	9615	
Dromore	Mount	8800*	Gaelic for "great ridge."
Dungeon	Peak	9700*	
Edith Cavell	Mount	11033	Named by Geographic Board after Nurse Cavell.
Elysium (51)	Mount	8025	Overlooks fine meadows.
Emigrants (52)	Mountain	8376	After the Cariboo gold-seekers of 1862 mentioned by Milton and Cheadle.
Emir (43)	Mount	8584	
Erebus	"	10234	A dark rock precipice faces northeast.
Eremite	Mountain	9500	
Esplanade (62)	Mount	7521	Flat-topped ridge.
Estella	"	10069	Spanish for "rock."
Excelsior (31)	Mountain	9100	

Name and Number	Feature	Height Feet	Origin.
Fiddle	River		Referred to in De Smet's letter, 1846, as violin.
Fiddle	Range		Palliser Expedition map, 1865.
Fitzwilliam	Mount	9549	Family name of William Viscount Milton.
Fortalice	"	9300	An outlying peak.
Franchère	Peak	9225	After Gabriel Franchère.
Fraser	Mount	10726	After Simon Fraser.
Gargoyle	"	8834	A stream flows from its base.
Geikie	"	10854	Named by J. McEvoy after Sir Archibald Geikie, the geologist.
Ghost (Glacier of the)	Glacier		From its shape, said to resemble the figure of a woman flying.
Greenock (63)	Mount	6881	
Grisette	"	8500*	Peak of grey limestone.
Hardisty	"	8900*	Named by Hector, 1859, after Chief Factor Richard Hardisty, H.B.Co.
Hawk (40)	"	8377	
Henry (53)	"	8626	After Wm. Henry, builder of Henry House.
Hooker	"		Named by D. Douglas, 1827, after Sir Wm. J. Hooker, (1785-1865) botanist.
Indian (22)	Ridge	8941	
Jacques (Roche)	A mountain	8540	May be after Jacques Cardinal, North West Co., who had a ranch near Snaring river.
Jasper	Town		After Jasper House, built by Jasper Hawes, before 1817.
Kataka	Mount	8600*	Indian for "fort."
Kephala	"	7968	
Kerkeslin	"		Named by Hector.
Lectern	Peak	9095	Like a church lectern; name suggested by G. E. Howard.
Maccarib (10)	Mount	8707	Indian for "caribou" which were seen below the peak.
Makwa (79)	Ridge	7000*	Indian for "bear."
Maligne	River		Meaning "bad." Referred to in De Smet's letter, 1846.
Manx	Peak	9987	Shape of contours resembles coat of arms of Isle of Man.
Marmot (23)	Mountain	8557	There are colonies of marmots on the mountain.
Medicine	Lake		Referred to in De Smet's letter, 1846.
Merlin	Mount	8600*	
Miette (Roche) (83)	A mountain	7599	Said to be after hunter who climbed it. Name first mentioned by Franchère.
Monarch	Mountain	9500	
Morro (38)	Peak	5504	Spanish for "round hill."
Muhigan (21)	Mountain	8559	Indian for "wolf."
Noire (Roche)	A mountain	9594	Summit of peak is "black."

Name and Number	Feature	Height Feet	Origin
Oldfort (26)	Point		The hunting lodge of the North West Company, called the "Old Fort," was nearby.
Oldhorn	Mountain	9779	
Outpost	Peak	9100*	
Penstock	Creek		Is joined by a tributary running underground for short distance.
Perdrix (Roche à) (89)	A mountain		Foliated like a partridge's tail. Mentioned by Grant in "Ocean to Ocean," 1873.
Pocahontas	Village		After town in Virginia.
Portal	Peak	8700*	
Pyramid (56)	Mountain	9076	On Palliser Expedition map, 1865.
Redan	Mount	8500	On Palliser Expedition map, 1865.
Redoubt	Peak	9700*	
Ronde (Roche) (74)	A mountain	7014	Mentioned by Grant in "Ocean to Ocean," 1873.
Rostrum	Hill	7600*	
Shovel	Pass		Named by Mrs. Schaffer, who found snow shovels in the pass on her way to Maligne lake.
Signal (27)	Mountain	7397	Telephone near summit.
Sirdar	Mount	9198	
Snake Indian	River		After Indian tribe.
Snaring	"		On Palliser Expedition map, 1865.
Surprise (14)	Point	7873	D. Thompson's map calls it "Stoney."
Tekarra (29)	Mount	8703	After Indian tribe. D. Thompson's map 1813-14.
Terminal	"	9300*	
Throne	Mountain	10144	
Thunderbolt (13)	Peak	8745	Summit shattered by lightning.
Tonquin (15)	Hill	7858	Astor Expedition ship, 1810.
Turret	Mountain	9700*	
Utopia (80)	Mount	8538	Surveyor's refuge from flies.
Vache	Prairie de la		Haunt of Buffalo. Mentioned by Franchère, 1820.
Vertex	Peak	9700*	Has extremely sharp triangular summit.
Vine	Creek		Vicinity of creek abounds in red bear berries.
Vista	Peak	9155	
Wabasso	Lakes		Indian for "rabbit."
Watchtower	Mountain	9157	
Whirlpool	River		On Palliser Expedition map 1865.
Whistlers (24)	Peak	8085	Colony of whistling marmots near the top.
Whitecap	Mountain	9400	
Yellowhead	Pass		After Iroquois trapper known as "Yellow Head," who cached furs at the west end.







Wild Flowers.

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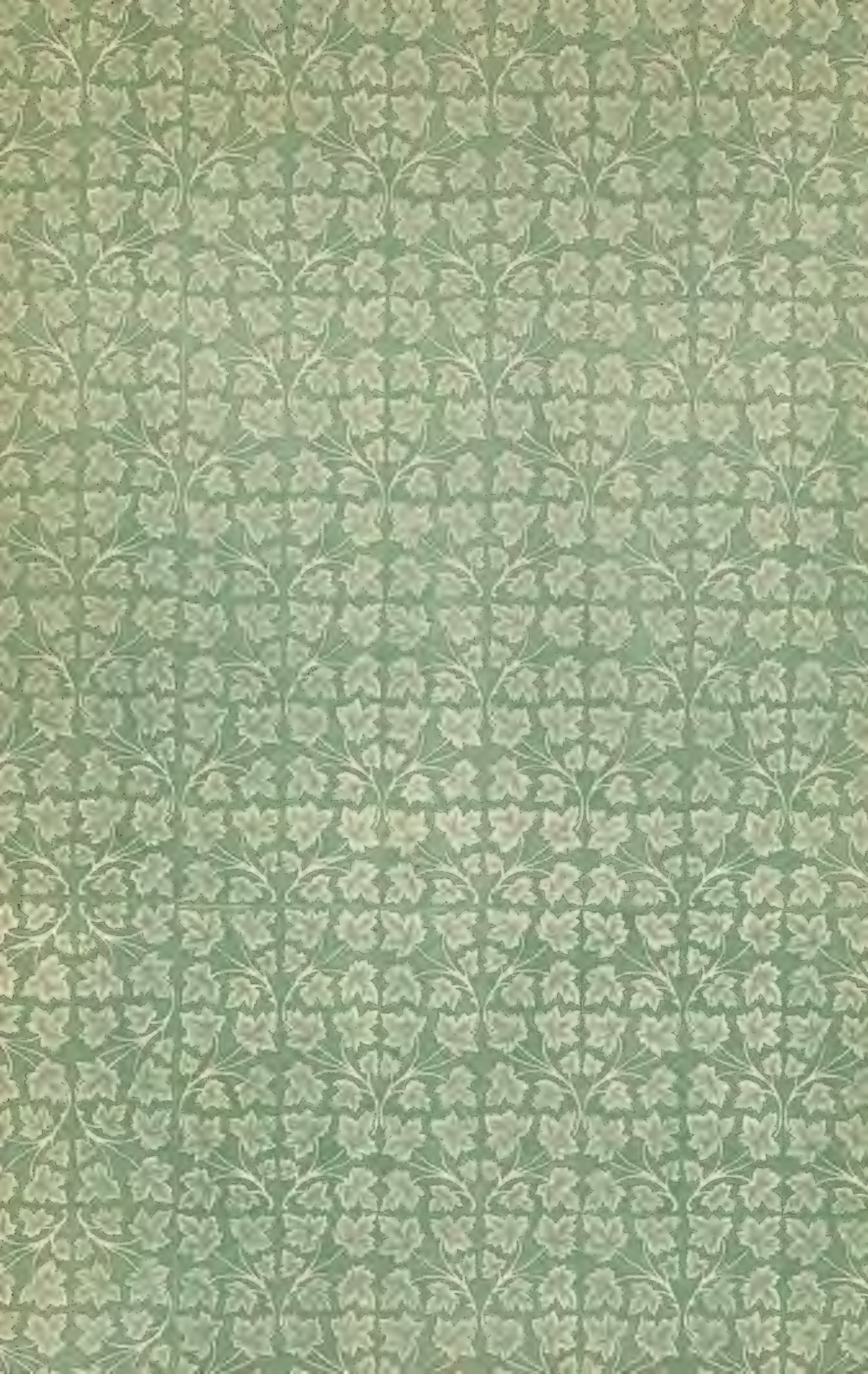
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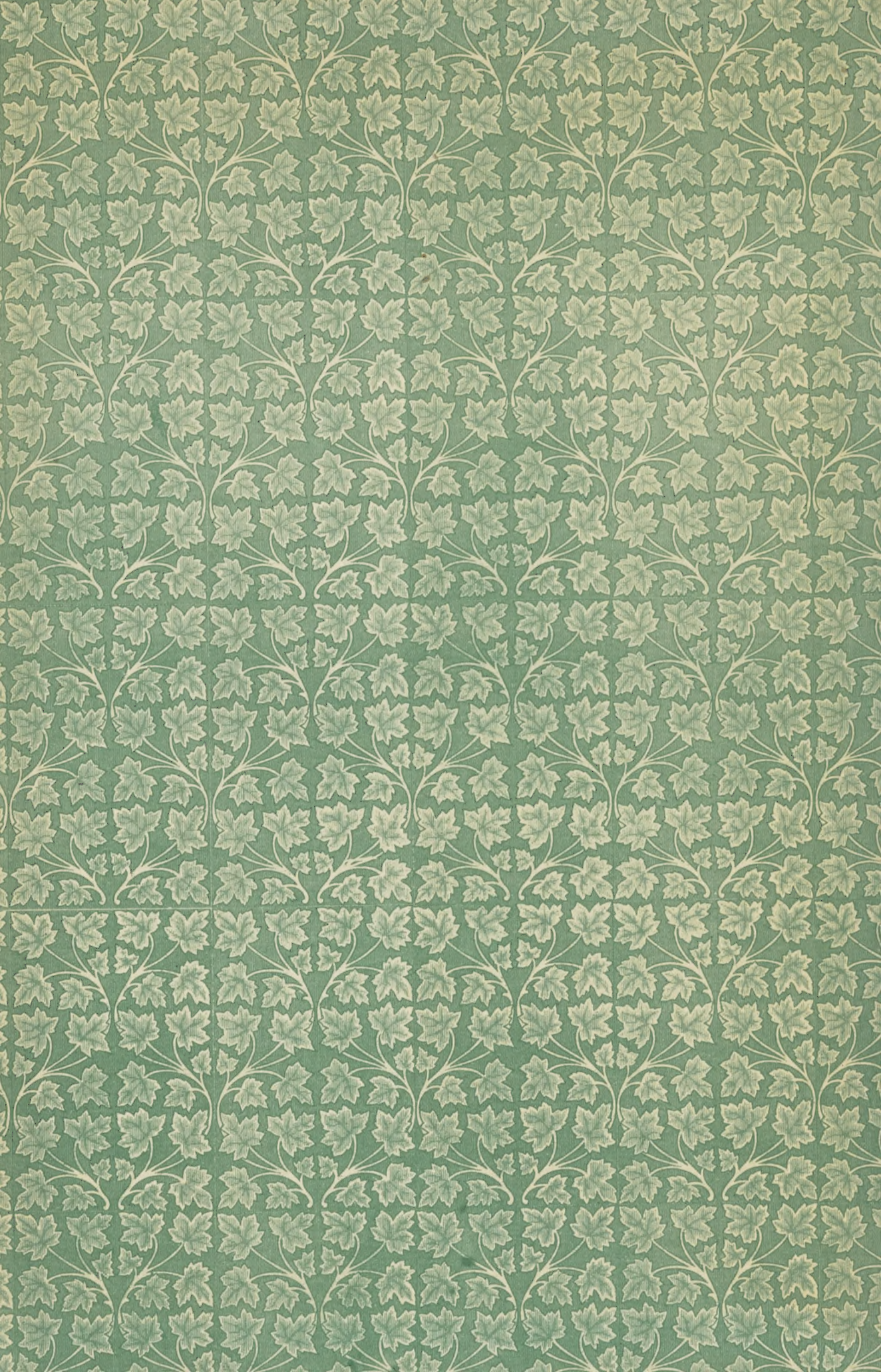






















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